

C. 34

LOND. 1607.

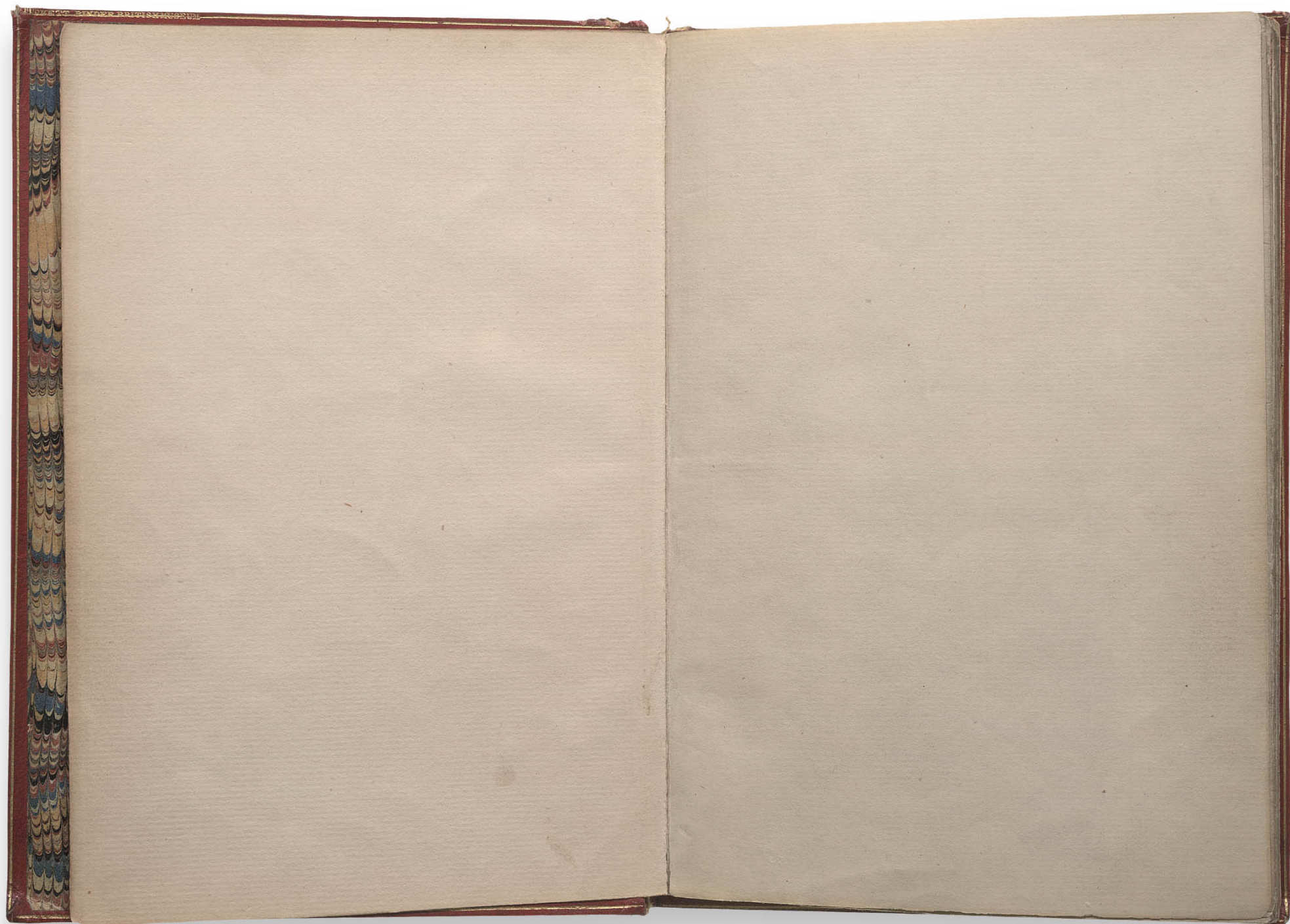
SHAKESPEARE. HAMLET.

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*H. Shakspeare (w.)*

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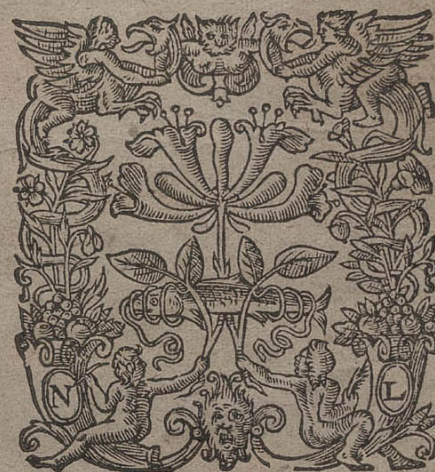
*C. 34. c. 4*

*11. xxv*  
THE  
Tragicall Historie of  
HAMLET,

*Prince of Denmarke.*

By William Shakspeare.

Newly imprinted and enlarged to almost as much  
again as it was, according to the true and perfect  
Coppie.



*13*  
AT LONDON,  
Printed by I. R. for N. L. and are to be sold at his  
shoppe vnder Saint Dunstons Church in  
Fleetstreet. 1605.





The Tragedie of  
**H A M L E T**  
Prince of Denmarke.

*Enter Barnardo, and Francisco, two Centinels.*

Bar. **VV** Hise there?  
Fran. Nay answere me. Stand and vnfolde your selfe;  
Bar. Long liue the King,  
Fran. Barnardo.

Bar. Hee.

Fran. You come most carefully vpon your houre,

Bar. Tis now strooke twelfe, get thee to bed *Francisco*,

Fran. For this reliefe much thanks, tis bitter cold,

And I am sick at hart.

Bar. Haue you had quiet guard?

Fran. Not a mouse stirring.

Bar. Well, good night:

If you doe meete *Horatio* and *Marcellus*,

The riuals of my watch, bid them make hast.

*Enter Horatio, and Marcellus.*

Fran. I thinke I heare them, stand ho, who is there?

Hor. Friends to this ground.

Mar. And Leedgemen to the Dane,

Fran. Giue you good night.

Mar. O, farwell honest souldiers, who hath relieu'd you?

Fran. *Barnardo* hath my place; giue you good night.

*Exit Fran.*

B.

*Mar.*



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

*Mar.* Holla, *Barnardo*.

*Bar.* Say, what is *Horatio* there?

*Hor.* A peece of him.

*Bar.* Welcome *Horatio*, welcome good *Marcellus*,

*Hor.* What, ha's this thing appeard againe to night?

*Bar.* I haue seene nothing.

*Mar.* *Horatio* saies tis but our fantasie,

And will not let beliefe take holde of him,

Touching this dreaded sight twice seene of vs,

Therefore I haue intreated him along,

With vs to watch the minuts of this night,

That if againe this apparition come,

He may approoue our eyes and speake to it.

*Hor.* Tush, tush, it will not appeare.

*Bar.* Sit downe a while,

And let vs once againe assaile your eares,

That are so fortified against our story,

What we haue two nights seene.

*Hor.* Well, sit we downe,

And let vs heare *Barnardo* speake of this.

*Bar.* Last night of all,

When yond same starre thats weastward from the pole,

Had made his course t'illumine that part of heauen

Where now it burnes, *Marcellus* and my selfe

The bell then beating one.

*Enter Ghost.*

*Mar.* Peace, breake thee of, lookewhere it comes againe.

*Bar.* In the same figure like the King thats dead.

*Mar.* Thou art a scholler, speake to it *Horatio*.

*Bar.* Lookes a not like the King? marke it *Horatio*.

*Hor.* Most like, it horrorwes me with feare and wonder.

*Bar.* It would be spoke to.

*Mar.* Speake to it *Horatio*.

*Hor.* What art thou that vsurp'st this time of night,

Together with that faire and warlike forme,

In which the Maestie of buried Denmarke

Did sometimes march, by heauen I charge thee speake.

*Mar.* It is offended.

*Bar.* See it staukes away.

## Prince of Denmarke.

*Hor.* Stay, speake, speake, I charge thee speake. *Exit Ghost.*

*Mar.* Tis gone and will not answere.

*Bar.* How now *Horatio*, you tremble and looke pale.

Is not this somthing morethen phantasie?

What thinke you-ont?

*Hor.* Before my God I might not this belieue,

Without the sencible and true auouch

Of mine owne eies.

*Mar.* Is it not like the King?

*Hor.* As thou art to thy selfe.

Such was the very Armor he had on,

When he the ambitious *Norway* combated,

So frownd he once, when in an angry parle

He smot the fleased pollax on the ice.

Tis strange.

*Mar.* Thus twice before, and iump at this dead houre,

With martiall stauke hath he gone by our watch.

*Hor.* In what perticular thought, to worke I know not,

But in the grosse and scope of mine opinion,

This bodes some strange eruption to our state.

*Mar.* Good now sit downe, and tell me he that knowes,

Why this same strikt and most obseruant watch

So nightly toiles the subiect of the land,

And with such dayly cost of brazon Cannon

And forraine marte, for implements of warre,

Why such impresse of ship-writes, whose sore taske

Does not deuide the Sunday from the weeke,

What might be toward that this sweaty hast

Doth make the night ioynt labourer with the day,

Who ist that can informe mee?

*Hor.* That can I.

At least the whisper goes so; our last King,

Whose image euen but now appear'd to vs,

Was as you knowe by *Fortinbrasse* of *Norway*,

Thereto prickt on by a most emulate pride

Dar'd to the combat; in which our valiant *Hamlet*,

(For so this side of our knowne world esteemd him)

Did slay this *Forinbrasse*, who by a seald compact

Well ratified by lawe and heraldy



*The Tragedie of Hamlet*

Did forfait (with his life) all these his lands  
Which he stood seiz'd of, to the conquerour.  
Against the which a moitie competent  
Was gaged by our King, which had returne  
To the inheritance of *Fortinbrasse*,  
Had he bin vanquisher; as by the same comarr,  
And carriage of the article desseigne,  
His fell to Hamlet; now Sir, young *Fortinbrasse*  
Of vnimprooued mettle, hot and full,  
Hath in the skirts of *Norway* heere and there  
Sharkt vp a list of lawelesse resolute  
For foode and diet to some enterprisa  
That hath a stomacke in't, which is no other  
As it doth well appeare vnto our state  
But to recouer of vs by strong hand  
And tearmes compulsatory, those foresaid lands  
So by his father lost; and this I take it,  
Is the maine motiue of our preparations  
The source of this our watch, and the chiefe head  
Of this post hast and Romeage in the land.  
*Bar.* I thinke it be no other, but enso;  
Well may it sort that this portentous figure  
Comes armed through our watch so like the King  
That was and is the question of these warres.  
*Hor.* A moth it is to trouble the mindes eye:  
In the most high and palmy state of Rome,  
A little ere the mightiest *Iulius* fell  
The graues stood tennatlesse, and the sheetered dead  
Did squeake and gibber in the Roman streets  
As starres with traines of fier, and dewes of blood  
Disasters in the sunne; and the moist starre,  
Vpon whose influence *Neptunes* Empier stands,  
Was sicke almost to doomesday with eclipse.  
And euen the like precurse of feare euents  
As harbindgers preceeding still the fates  
And prologue to the *Omen* comming on  
Haue heauen and earth together demonstrated  
Vnto our Climatures and countrymen.

*Enter Ghost.*

*Prince of Denmarke.*

But soft, behold, loe where it comes againe  
He crosse it though it blast mee: stay illusion,  
If thou hast any sound or vse of voyce,  
Speake to me, if there be any good thing to be done  
That may to thee doe ease, and grace to mee,  
Speake to me.

*It spreads  
his armes.*

If thou art priuie to thy countries fare  
Which happily foreknowing may auoyd  
O speake:

Or if thou hast vphoorded in thy life  
Extorted treasure in the wombe of earth  
For which they say your spirits oft walke in death.  
Speake of it, stay and speake, stop it *Marcellus*.

*The cocke  
crows.*

*Mar.* Shall I strike it with my partizan?

*Hor.* Doe if it will not stand.

*Bar.* Tis heere.

*Hor.* Tis heere.

*Mar.* Tis gone.

We doe it wrong being so Maiesticall  
To offer it the shoue of violence,  
For it is as the ayre, invulnerable,  
And our vaine blowes malicious mockery.

*Bar.* It was about to speake when the cock crewe.

*Hor.* And then it started like a guilty thing,  
Vpon a fearefull summons; I haue heard,  
The Cock that is the trumpet to the morne,  
Doth with his lofty and shrill sounding throat  
Awake the God of day, and at his warning  
Whether in sea or fire, in earth or ayre  
Th'extravagant and erring spirit hies  
To his confine, and of the truth heerein  
This present obiekt made probation.

*Mar.* It faded on the crowing of the Cock.  
Some say that euer gainst that season comes  
Wherein our Sauours birth is celebrated  
This bird of dawning singeth all night long;  
And then they say no spirit dare sturre abraode  
The nights are wholesome, then no planners strike,  
No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charme



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

So hallowed, and so gracious is that time.

*Hora.* So haue I heard and doe in part belieue it;  
But looke the morne in russet mantle clad  
Walkes ore the dewe of yon high Eastward hill  
Breake we our watch vp and by my aduise  
Let vs impart what we haue seene to night  
Vnto young *Hamlet*, for vppon my life  
This spirit dumb to vs, will speake to him:  
Doe you consent we shall acquaint him with it  
As needfull in our loues, fitting our duty.

*Mar.* Lets doo't I pray, and I this morning knowe  
Where we shall find him most conuenient.

*Exeunt.*

*Florish.* Enter *Claudius*, King of Denmarke, *Gertrude* the Queene,  
Counsaile: as *Polonius*, and his Sonne *Laertes*,  
*Hamlet*, *Cum Alijs.*

*Claud.* Though yet of *Hamlet* our deare brothers death  
The memorie be greene, and that it vs befitted  
To beare our harts in griefe, and our whole Kingdome,  
To be contracted in one browe of woe  
Yet so farre hath discretion fought with nature,  
That we with wisest sorrowe thinke on him  
Together with remembrance of our selues:  
Therefore our sometime Sister, now our Queene  
Th'imperiall ioyntresse to this warlike state  
Haue we as twere with a defeated ioy  
With an auspicious, and a dropping eye,  
With mirth in funerall, and with diridge in marriage,  
In equall scale waighing delight and dole  
Taken to wife: nor haue we herein bard  
Your better wildomes, which haue freely gone  
With this affaire along (for all our thanks)  
Now followes that you knowe young *Fortinbrasse*,  
Holding a weake supposal of our worth  
Or thinking by our late deare brothers death  
Our state to be disioynt, and out of frame  
Coleagued with this dreame of his aduantage  
He hath not failed to pestur vs with message

Importing

## Prince of Denmarke.

Importing the surrender of those lands  
Lost by his father, with all bands of lawe  
To our most valiant brother, so much for him:  
Now for our selfe, and for this time of meeting,  
Thus much the busines is, we haue heere writ  
To *Norway* Vncle of young *Fortenbrasse*  
Who impotent and bedred scarcely heares  
Of this his Nephewes purpose; to suppress  
His further gate heerein, in that the leuies,  
The lists, and full proportions are all made  
Out of his subiect, and we heere dispatch  
You good *Cornelius*, and you *Valtemand*,  
For bearers of this greeting to old *Norway*,  
Giuing to you no further personall power  
To busines with the King, more then the scope  
Of these delated articles allowe:  
Farwell, and let your hast commend your dutie.

*Cor. Vo.* In that, and all things will we showe our dutie.

*King.* We doubt it nothing, hartely farwell.

And now *Laertes* whats the newes with you?

You told vs of some sure, what ist *Laertes*?

You cannot speake of reason to the Dane

And lose your voyce; what wold'st thou begge *Laertes*?

That shall not be my offer, nor thy asking,

The head is not more natieue to the hart

The hand more instrumentall to the mouth

Then is the throne of Denmarke to thy father,

What would'st thou haue *Laertes*?

*Laer.* My dread Lord,

Your leaue and fauour to returne to Fraunce,

From whence, though willingly I came to Denmarke,

To showe my dutie in your Coronation;

Yet now I must confesse, that duty done

My thoughts and wishes bend againe toward Fraunce

And bowe them to your gracious leaue and pardon.

*King.* Haue you your fathers leaue, what saies *Polonius*?

*Pol.* Hath my Lord wrong from me my slowe leaue

By laboursome petition, and at last

Vpon his will I seald my hard consent,



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

I doe beseech you giue him leaue to goe.

*King.* Take thy faire houre *Laertes*, time be thine

And thy best graces spend it at thy will :

But now my Cofin *Hamlet*, and my sonne.

*Ham.* A little more then kin, and lesse then kind.

*King.* How is it that the clowdes still hang on you.

*Ham.* Not so much my Lord, I am too much in the sonne.

*Queene.* Good *Hamlet* cast thy nighted colour off

And let thine eye looke like a friend on *Denmarke*.

Doe not for euer with thy vailed lids

Seeke for thy noble Father in the dust,

Thou know'st tis common all that liues must die,

Passing through nature to eternitie.

*Ham.* I Madding, it is common.

*Quee.* If it be

Why seemes it so perticuler with thee.

*Ham.* Seemes Madding, nay it is, I know not seemes,

Tis not alone my incky cloake coold mother

Nor customary suites of solembe blacke

Nor windie fuspuration of forst breath

No, nor the fruitfull riuer in the eye,

Nor the deiectioned hauior of the vilage,

Together with all formes, moodes, chapes of griefe

That can deuote me truely, these indeede seeme,

For they are actions that a man might play

But I haue that within which passes shoue

These but the trappings and the suites of woe.

*King.* Tis sweete and commendable in your nature *Hamlet*,

To giue these mourning duties to your father

But you must knowe your father lost a father,

That father lost, lost his, and the suruiuer bound

In filliall obligation for some tearme

To doe obsequious sorrowe, but to perseuer

In obstinate condolement, is a course

Of impious stubbornnes, tis vnmanly griefe,

It shoues a will most incorrect to heauen

A hart vnfortified, or minde impatient

An vnderstanding simple and vnshoold

For what we knowe must be, and is as common

As

## Prince of Denmarke.

As any the most vulgar thing to sence,

Why should we in our peuiish opposition

Take it to hart, fie, tis a fault to heauen,

A fault against the dead, a fault to nature,

To reason most absurd, whose common theame

Is death of fathers, and who still hath cryed

From the first course, till he that died to day

This must be so : we pray you throw to earth

This vnpreuailing woe, and thinke of vs

As of a father, for let the world take note

You are the most imediate to our throne,

And with no lesse nobilitie of loue

Then that which dearest father beares his sonne,

Doe I impart toward you for your intent

In going back to schoole in *Wittenberg*,

It is most retrogard to our desire,

And we beseech you bend you to remaine

Heere in the cheare and comfort of our eye,

Our chiefeft courtier, cofin, and our sonne.

*Quee.* Let not thy mother loose her prayers *Hamlet*,

I pray thee stay with vs, goe not to *Wittenberg*.

*Ham.* I shall in all my best obay you Madam.

*King.* Why tis a louing and a faire reply,

Be as our selfe in Denmarke, Madam come,

This gentle and vnforc'd accord of *Hamlet*

Sits smiling to my hart, in grace whereof,

No iocund health that Denmarke drinks to day,

But the great Cannon to the clowdes shall tell,

And the Kings rowse the heauen shall brute againe,

Respeaking earthly thunder; come away. *Florisb.*

*Ham.* O that this too too sallied flesh would melt,

Thaw and resoluue it selfe into a dewe,

Or that the euerlasting had not fixt

His cannon gainst seale slaughter, o God, God,

How wary, stale, flat, and vnprofitable

Seeme to me all the vses of this world :

Fie on't, ah fie, tis an vnweeded garden

That growes to seede, things rancke and grose in nature,

Possesse it meereley that it should come thus

C.

But



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

But two months dead, nay not so much, not two,  
So excellent a King, that was to this  
Hyperion to a satyre, so louing to my mother,  
That he might not betee me the winds of heauen  
Visite her face too roughly, heauen and earth  
Must I remember, why she should hang on him  
As if increase of appetite had growne  
By what it fed on, and yet within a month,  
Let me not thinke on'r; frailty thy name is woman  
A little month or ere those shooes were old  
With which she followed my poore fathers bodie  
Like *Noebe* all teares, why she  
O God, a beast that wants discourse of reason  
Would haue mourn'd longer, married with my Vncle,  
My fathers brother, but no more like my father  
Then I to *Hercules*, within a month,  
Ere yet the salt of most vnrighteous teares,  
Had left the flushing in her gauled eyes  
She married, o most wicked speede; to post  
With such dexteritie to incestuous sheets,  
It is not, nor it cannot come to good,  
But breake my hart, for I must hold my tongue.

*Enter Horatio, Marcellus, and Bernardo.*

*Hora.* Haile to your Lordship.  
*Ham.* I am glad to see you well; *Horatio*, or I do forger my selfe.  
*Hora.* The same my Lord, and your poore seruant euer.  
*Ham.* Sir my good friend, Ile change that name with you,  
And what make you from *Wittenberg* *Horatio*?  
*Marcellus.*  
*Mar.* My good Lord.  
*Ham.* I am very glad to see you, (good euen sir)  
But what in faith make you from *Wittenberg*?  
*Hora.* A truant disposition good my Lord.  
*Ham.* I would not heare your enimie say so,  
Nor shall you doe my eare that violence  
To make it truster of your owne report  
Against your selfe, I knowe you are no truant,  
But what is your affaire in *Elsonoure*?  
Weele teach you for to drinke ere you depart.

*Hora.*

## Prince of Denmarke.

*Hora.* My Lord, I came to see your fathers funerall.  
*Ham.* I pre thee doe not mocke me fellowe student,  
I thinke it was to my mothers wedding.  
*Hora.* Indeede my Lord it followed hard vppon.  
*Ham.* Thrift, thrift, *Horatio*, the funerall bak't meates  
Did coldly furnish forth the marriage tables,  
Would I had met my dearest foe in heauen  
Or euer I had seene that day *Horatio*,  
My father, me thinke I see my father.  
*Hora.* Where my Lord?  
*Ham.* In my mindes eye *Horatio*.  
*Hora.* I saw him once, a was a goodly King.  
*Ham.* A was a man take him for all in all  
I shall not looke vppon his like againe.  
*Hora.* My Lord I thinke I saw him yesternight.  
*Ham.* Saw, who?  
*Hora.* My Lord the King your father.  
*Ham.* The King my father?  
*Hora.* Season your admiration for a while  
With an attent eare till I may deliuer  
Vppon the witnes of these gentlemen  
This maruile to you.  
*Ham.* For Gods loue let me heare?  
*Hora.* Two nights together had these gentlemen  
*Marcellus*, and *Barnardo*, on their watch  
In the dead wast and middle of the night  
Beene thus incountred, a figure like your father  
Armed at poynt, exactly *Capapea*  
Appeares before them, and with solemne march,  
Goes slowe and stately by them; thrice he walkt  
By their opprest and feare surpris'd eyes  
Within his tronchions length, whilst they distil'd  
Almost to gelly, with the act of feare  
Stand dumbe and speake not to him; this to me  
In dreadfull secrecie impart they did,  
And I with them the third night kept the watch,  
Whereas they had deliuered both in time  
Forme of the thing, each word made true and good,  
The Apparision comes: I knewe your father,

C2

These



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

These hands are not more like.

*Ham.* But where was this?

*Mar.* My Lord vpon the platforme where we watch.

*Ham.* Did you not speake to it?

*Hora.* My Lord I did,

But answere made it none, yet once me thought

It lifted vp it head, and did addresse

It selfe to motion like as it would speake:

But euen then the morning Cock crewe loude,

And at the sound it shrunk in hast away

And vanisht from our sight.

*Ham.* Tis very strange.

*Hora.* As I doe liue my honor'd Lord tis true

And we did thinke it writ downe in our dutie

To let you knowe of it.

*Ham.* Indeepe Sirs but this troubles me,

Hold you the watch to night?

*All.* We doe my Lord.

*Ham.* Arm'd say you?

*All.* Arm'd my Lord.

*Ham.* From top to toe?

*All.* My Lord from head to foote.

*Ham.* Then sawe you not his face.

*Hora.* O yes my Lord, he wore his beauer vp.

*Ham.* What look't he frowningly?

*Hora.* A countenance more in sorrow then in anger.

*Ham.* Pale, or red?

*Hora.* Nay very pale.

*Ham.* And fixt his eyes vpon you?

*Hora.* Most constantly.

*Ham.* I would I had beene there.

*Hora.* It would haue much amaz'd you.

*Ham.* Very like, stayd it long?

*Hora.* While one with moderate hast might tell a hundreth.

*Botb.* Longer, longer.

*Hora.* Not when I saw't.

*Ham.* His beard was grise'd, no.

*Hora.* It was as I haue seene it in his life

A sable siluer'd.

## Prince of Denmarke.

*Ham.* I will watch to night  
Perchaunce twill walke againe.

*Hora.* I warn't it will.

*Ham.* If it assume my noble fathers person,  
Ile speake to it though hell it selfe should gape

And bid me hold my peace; I pray you all

If you haue hetherto conceald this sight

Let it be tenable in your silence still,

And what someuer els shall hap to night,

Giue it an vnderstanding but no tongue,

I will requite your loues, so farre you well:

Vppon the platforme twixt a leauen and twelue

Ile visite you.

*All.* Our dutie to your honor.

*Exeunt.*

*Ham.* Your loues, as mine to you, farwell.

My fathers spirit (in armes) all is not well,

I doubt some foule play, would the night were come,

Till then sit still my soule, sonde deedes will rise

Though all the earth ore-whelme them to mens eyes. *Exit.*

*Enter Laertes, and Opheliab's Sister.*

*Lacr.* My necessities are in barckr, farwell,

And sister, as the winds giue benefit

And conuay, in asistant doe not sleepe

But let me heere from you.

*Ophe.* Doe you doubt that?

*Lacr.* For Hamlet, and the trifling of his fauour,

Hold it a fashion, and a toy in blood

A Violet in the youth of primy nature,

Forward, not permanent, sweete, not lasting,

The perfume and suppliaunce of a minute

No more.

*Ophe.* No more but so.

*Lacr.* Thinke it no more.

For nature cressant does not growe alone

In thewes and bulkes, but as this temple waxes

The inward seruice of the minde and soule

Growes wide withall, perhapes he loues you now,

And now no soyle nor cautell doth besmirch

The vertue of his will, but you must feare,



*The Tragedie of Hamlet*

His greatnes wayd, his will is not his owne,  
He may not as vnualed persons doe,  
Carue for himselfe, for on his choise depends  
The safty and health of this whole state,  
And therefore must his choise be circumscrib'd  
Vnto the voyce and yeelding of that body  
Whereof he is the head, then if he saies he loues you,  
It fits your wisdome so farre to belieue it  
As he in his particuler act and place  
May giue his saying deede, which is no further  
Then the maine voyce of Denmarke goes withall.  
Then way what losse your honor may sustaine  
If with too credent eare you list his songs  
Or loose your hart, or your chaste treasure open  
To his vnmaistred importunity.  
Feare it *Ophelia*, feare it my deare sister,  
And keepe you in the reare of your affection  
Out of the shot and danger of desire,  
"The charest maide is prodigall inough  
If she vnmaske her butie to the Moone  
"Vertue it selfe scapes not calumnious strokes  
"The canker gaules the infants of the spring  
Too oft before their buttons be disclopd,  
And in the morne and liquid dewe of youth  
Contagious blastments are most imminent,  
Be wary then, best safety lies in feare,  
Youth to it selfe rebels, though non els neare.

*Oph.* I shall the effect of this good lesson keepe  
As watchman to my hart, but good my brother  
Doe not as some vngracious pastors doe,  
Showe me the step and thorny way to heauen  
Whiles a puffed, and reckles libertine  
Himselfe the primrose path of dalience treads.  
And reakes not his owne reed.

*Laer.* O feare me not,  
I stay too long, but heere my father comes  
A double blessing, is a double grace,  
Occasion smiles vpon a second leaue.

*Pol.* Yet heere *Laertes*; a bord, a bord for shame,

*Enter Polonius.*

The

*Prince of Denmarke.*

The wind sits in the shoulder of your saile,  
And you are stayed for, there my blessing with thee.  
And these fewe precepts in thy memory  
Looke thou character, giue thy thoughts no tongue,  
Nor any vnproportion'd thought his act,  
Be thou famillier, but by no meanes vulgar,  
Those friends thou hast, and their a doption tried,  
Grapple them vnto thy soule with hoopes of Steele,  
But doe not dull thy palme with entertainment  
Of each new hatcht vnflgd courage, beware  
Of entrance to a quarrell, but being in,  
Bear't that th'opposed may beware of thee,  
Giue euery man thy eare, but fewe thy voyce,  
Take each mans censure, but reserue thy iudgement,  
Costly thy habite as thy purse can by,  
But not exprest in fancy; rich not gaudy,  
For the apparrell oft proclaimes the man  
And they in Fraunce of the best ranck and station;  
Or of a most select and generous, chiefe in that:  
Neither a borrower nor a lender boy,  
For loue oft looses both it selfe, and friend,  
And borrowing dulleth edge of husbundry;  
This aboue all, to thine owne selfe be true  
And it must followe as the night the day  
Thou canst not then be false to any man:  
Farwell, my blessing season this in thee.

*Laer.* Most humbly doe I take my leaue my Lord.

*Pol.* The time inuests you goe, your seruants tend.

*Laer.* Farwell *Ophelia*, and remember well  
What I haue sayd to you.

*Oph.* Tis in my memory lockt  
And you your selfe shall keepe the key of it.

*Laer.* Farwell. *Exi Laertes.*

*Pol.* What ist *Ophelia* he hath sayd to you?

*Oph.* So please you, something touching the Lord *Hamlet*.

*Pol.* Marry well be thought  
Tis tolde me he hath very oft of late  
Giuen priuate time to you, and you your selfe  
Haue of your audience beene most free and bountious,

If



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

If it be so, as so tis put on me,  
And that in way of caution, I must tell you,  
You doe not vnderstand your selfe so cleereley  
As it behooues my daughter, and your honor,  
What is betweene you giue me vp the truth,

*Ophe.* He hath my Lord of late made many tenders  
Of his affection to me.

*Pol.* Affection, puh, you speake like a greene girle  
Vnsifted in such perrilous circumstance,  
Doe you belieue his tenders as you call them?

*Ophe.* I doe not knowe my Lord what I should thinke.

*Pol.* Marry I will teach you, thinke your selfe a babie  
That you haue tane these tenders for true pay  
Which are not sterling; tender your selfe more dearely  
Or (not to crack the winde of the poore phrase  
Wrong it thus) you'll tender me a foole.

*Ophe.* My Lord he hath importun'd me with loue  
In honorable fashon.

*Pol.* I, fashon you may call it, go to, go to.

*Ophe.* And hath giuen countenance to his speech  
My Lord, with almost all the holy vowes of heauen.

*Pol.* I, springs to catch wood-cockes, I doe knowe  
When the blood burnes, how prodigall the soule  
Lends the tongue vowes, these blazes daughter  
Giuing more light then heate, extinct in both  
Euen in their promise, as it is a making  
You must not take for fire, from this time  
Be something scantier of your maiden presence  
Set your intreatments at a higher rate  
Then a commaund to parle; for Lord Hamlet,  
Belieue so much in him that he is young,  
And with a larger tider may he walke.  
Then may be giuen you: in fewe *Ophelia*,  
Doe not belieue his vowes; for they are brokers  
Not of that die which their inuestments shewe  
But meere implorators of vnholly suites  
Breathing like sanctified and pious bonds  
The better to beguide: this is for all,  
I would not in plaine tearmes from this time forth

Haue

## Prince of Denmarke.

Haue you so slaunder any moment leasure  
As to giue words or talke with the Lord Hamlet,  
Looke too't I charge you, come your wayes.

*Ophe.* I shall obey my Lord. *Exeunt.*

*Enter Hamlet, Horatio and Marcellus.*

*Ham.* The ayre bites shroudly, it is very colde.

*Hor.* It is nipping, and an eager ayre.

*Ham.* What houre now?

*Hor.* I thinke it lackes of twelue.

*Mar.* No, it is strooke.

*Hor.* Indeepe; I heard it not, it then drawes neere the season,  
Wherein the spirit held his wont to walke *A flourish of trumpets*  
What does this meane my Lord? *and 2. peeces goes of.*

*Ham.* The King doth wake to night and takes his rowle.  
Keepes wassell and the swagging vp-spring reeles:  
And as he draines his drafts of Rennish downe,  
The kettle drumme, and trumpet, thus bray out  
The triumph of his pledge.

*Hor.* Is it a custome?

*Ham.* I marry ist,

But to my minde, though I am natiue heere  
And to the manner borne, it is a custome  
More honourd in the breach, then the obseruance.  
This heauy headed reueale east and west  
Makes vs tradust, and taxed of other nations,  
They clip vs drunkards, and with Swinish phrase  
Soyle our addition, and indeede it takes  
From our atchieuements, though perform'd at heigh  
The pith and marrow of our attribute,  
So oft it chaunces in particuler men,  
That for some vicious mole of nature in them  
As in their birth wherein they are not guilty,  
(Since nature cannot choose his origia)  
By their ore-grow'th of some complexion  
Oft breaking downe the pales and forts of reason,  
Or by some habit, that too much ore-leauens  
The forme of plausiue manners, that these men  
Carrying I say the stamp of one defect

D.

Being



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

Being Natures livery, or Fortunes starre,  
His vertues els be they as pure as grace,  
As infinite as man may vndergoe,  
Shall in the generall censure take corruption  
From that particuler fault: the dram of eale  
Doth all the noble substance of a doubt  
To his owne scandle.

*Enter Ghost.*

*Hor.* Looke my Lord it comes.

*Ham.* Angels and Ministers of grace defend vs:  
Be thou a spirit of health, or goblin damn'd,  
Bring with thee ayres from heaven, or blasts from hell,  
Be thy intents wicked, or charitable,  
Thou com'st in such a questionable shape,  
That I will speake to thee, Ile call thee *Hamlet*,  
King, father, royall Dane, & answere mee,  
Let me not burst in ignorance, but tell  
Why thy canoniz'd bones hearsed in death  
Hauē burst their cerements: why the Sepulcher,  
Wherein we saw thee quietly interr'd  
Hath op't his ponderous and marble iawes,  
To cast thee vp againe: what may this meane  
That thou dead corse, againe in compleat Steele  
Reuistest thus the glimfes of the Moone,  
Making night hideous, and we fooles of nature  
So horridly to shake our disposition  
With thoughts beyond the reaches of our soules,  
Say why is this, wherefore, what should we doe?

*Hor.* It beckins you to goe away with it  
As if it some impartment did desire  
To you alone.

*Mar.* Looke with what curteous action  
It waues you to a more remoued ground,  
But doe not goe with it.

*Hor.* No, by no meanes.

*Ham.* It will not speake, then I will followe it.

*Hor.* Doe not my Lord.

*Ham.* Why what should be the feare,  
I doe not set my life at a pinnes fee,

*Beckins.*

And

## Prince of Denmarke.

And for my soule, what can it doe to that  
Being a thing immortall as it selfe;  
It waues me forth againe, Ile followe it.

*Hor.* What if it tempt you toward the flood my Lord,  
Or to the dreadfull somner of the cleefe  
That bettles ore his base into the sea,  
And there assume some other horrable forme  
Which might depriue your soueraigntie of reason,  
And draw you into madnes, thinke of it,  
The very place puts toyes of desperation  
Without more motiue, into euery braine  
That lookes so many fadoms to the sea  
And heares it rore beneath.

*Ham.* It waues me still,  
Goe on, Ile followe thee.

*Mar.* You shall not goe my Lord.

*Ham.* Hold of your hands.

*Hor.* Be rul'd, you shall not goe.

*Ham.* My fate cries out  
And makes each petty arture in this body  
As hardy as the Nemeon Lyons nerue;  
Still am I cald, vnhand me Gentlemen  
By heauen Ile make a ghost of him that lets me,  
I say away, goe on, Ile followe thee.

*Exit Ghost and Hamlet.*

*Hor.* He waxes desperate with imagination.

*Mar.* Lets followe, tis not fit thus to obey him.

*Hor.* Haue after, to what issue will this come?

*Mar.* Something is rotten in the state of Denmarke.

*Hor.* Heauen will direct it.

*Mar.* Nay lets follow him.

*Exeunt.*

*Enter Ghost, and Hamlet.*

*Ham.* Whether wilt thou leade me, speake, Ile goe no further.

*Ghost.* Marke me.

*Ham.* I will.

*Ghost.* My houre is almost come  
When I to sulphrus and tormenting flames  
Must render vp my selfe.

*Ham.* Alas poore Ghost.

Dz

*Ghost.*



### The Tragedie of Hamlet

*Ghost.* Pity me not, but lend thy serious hearing  
To what I shall vnfold.

*Ham.* Speake, I am bound to heare.

*Ghost.* So art thou to reuenge, when thou shalt heare.

*Ham.* What?

*Ghost.* I am thy fathers spirit,  
Doomd for a certaine tearme to walke the night,  
And for the day confin'd to fast in fires,  
Till the foule crimes done in my dayes of nature  
Are burnt and purg'd away: but that I am forbid  
To tell the secrets of my prison house,  
I could a tale vnfolde whose lightest word  
Would harrow vp thy soule, freeze thy young blood,  
Make thy two eyes like stars start from their spheres,  
Thy knotted and combined locks to part,  
And each particuler haire to stand an end,  
Like quills vpon the fearefull Porpentine,  
But this eternall blazon must not be  
To eares of flesh and blood, list, list, & list:  
If thou did'st euer thy deare father loue.

*Ham.* O God.

*Ghost.* Reuenge his foule, and most vnnaturall murder.

*Ham.* Murther.

*Ghost.* Murther most foule, as in the best it is,  
But this most foule, strange and vnnaturall.

*Ham.* Hast me to know, that I with wings as swift  
As meditation, or the thoughts of loue  
May sweepe to my reuenge.

*Ghost.* I find thee apt,  
And duller shouldst thou be then the fat weede  
That rootes it selfe in ease on *Lethie* wharffe,  
Would'st thou not sturre in this; now *Hamlet* heare,  
Tis giuen out, that sleeping in my Orchard,  
A Serpent stung me, so the whole eare of *Denmarke*  
Is by a forged proceffe of my death  
Ranckely abused: but knowe thou noble Youth,  
The Serpent that did sting thy fathers life  
Now weares his Crowne.

*Ham.* O my propheticke soule! my Vncle

### Prince of Denmarke.

*Ghost.* I that incestuous, that adulterate beast,  
With witchcraft of his wits, with trayterous gifts,  
O wicked wit, and giftes that haue the power  
So to seduce; wonne to his shamefull lust  
The will of my most seeming vertuous *Queenes*  
O *Hamlet*, what falling off was there  
From me whose loue was of that dignitie  
That it went hand in hand, euen with the vowe  
I made to her in marriage, and to decline  
Vppon a wretch whose naturall gifts were poore,  
To those of mine; but vertue as it neuer will be mooued,  
Though lewdnesse court it in a shape of heauen  
So but though to a radiant Angle linckt,  
Will sort it selfe in a celestiall bed  
And pray on garbage.

But soft, me thinkes I sent the morning ayre,  
Briefe let me be; sleeping within my Orchard,  
My custome alwayes of the afternoone,  
Vpon my secure houre, thy Vncle stole  
With iuyce of cursed *Hebena* in a viall,  
And in the porches of my eares did poure  
The leaprous distilment, whose effect  
Holds such an enmitie with blood of man,  
That swift as quicksiluer it courses through  
The naturall gates and allies of the body,  
And with a sodaine vigour it doth possesse  
And curde like eager droppings into milke,  
The thin and whollome blood; so did it mine,  
And a most instant tetter barckt about  
Most Lazerlike with vile and lothsome crust  
All my smooth body.

Thus was I sleeping by a brothers hand,  
Of life, of Crowne, of *Queene* at once dispatcht,  
Cut off euen in the blossomes of my sinne,  
Vnhuzled, disappointed, vnanueld,  
No reckning made, but sent to my account  
Withall my imperfections on my head,  
O horrible, & horrible, most horrible.  
If thou hast nature in thee beare it not,



### The Tragedie of Hamlet

Let not the royall bed of Denmarke be  
A couch for luxury and damned incest.  
But howsomeuer thou pursues this act,  
Tain't not thy minde, nor let thy soule contriue  
Against thy mother ought, leaue her to heauen,  
And to those thornes that in her bosome lodge  
To prick and sting her, fare thee well at once,  
The Gloworme shewes the matine to be neere  
And gins to pale his vneffectuall fire,  
Adiew, adiew, adiew, remember me.

*Ham.* O all you host of heauen, o earth, what els,  
And shall I couple hell, o fie, hold, hold my hart,  
And you my sinnowes, growe not instant old,  
But beare me swiftly vp; remember thee,  
I thou poore Ghost whiles memory holds a seate  
In this distracted globe, remember thee,  
Yea, from the table of my memory  
Ile wipe away all triuiall fond records,  
All sawes of bookes, all formes, all pressuress past  
That youth and obseruation coppied there,  
And thy commandement all alone shall liue,  
Within the booke and volume of my braine  
Vnmixt with baser matter, yes by heauen,  
O most pernicious woman.  
O villaine, villaine, smiling damned villaine,  
My tables, meet it is I set it downe  
That one may smile, and smile, and be a villaine,  
At least I am sure it may be so in Denmarke.  
So Vncle, there you are, now to my word,  
It is adew, adew, remember me.  
I haue sworn't.

*Enter Horatio, and Marcellus.*

*Hora.* My Lord, my Lord.

*Mar.* Lord Hamlet.

*Hora.* Heauens secure him.

*Ham.* So be it.

*Mar.* Illo, ho, ho, my Lord.

*Ham.* Hillo, ho, ho, boy come, and come.

### Prince of Denmarke.

*Mar.* How i'st my noble Lord?

*Hora.* What newes my Lord?

*Ham.* O, wonderfull.

*Hora.* Good my Lord tell it.

*Ham.* No, you will reueale it.

*Hora.* Not I my Lord by heauen.

*Mar.* Nor I my Lord.

*Ham.* How say you then, would hart of man once thinke it,  
But you'le be secret.

*Booth.* I by heauen.

*Ham.* There's neuer a villaine,  
Dwelling in all Denmarke  
But hee's an arrant knaue.

*Hora.* There needes no Ghost my Lord, come from the graue  
To tell vs this.

*Ham.* Why right, you are in the right,  
And so without more circumstance at all  
I hold it fit that we shake hands and part,  
You, as your busines and desire shall poynt you,  
For euery man hath busines and desire  
Such as it is, and for my owne poore part  
I will goe pray.

*Hora.* These are but wilde and whurling words my Lord.

*Ham.* I am sorry they offend you hartily,  
Yes faith hartily.

*Hora.* There's no offence my Lord.

*Ham.* Yes by Saint Patrick but there is *Horatio*,  
And much offence to, touching this vision heere,  
It is an honest Ghost that let me tell you,  
For your desire to knowe what is betweene vs  
Oremastret as you may, and now good friends,  
As you are friends, schollers, and souldiers,  
Giue me one poore request.

*Hora.* What i'st my Lord, we will.

*Ham.* Neuer make knowne what you haue seene to night.

*Booth.* My Lord we will not.

*Ham.* Nay but swear't.

*Hora.* In faith my Lord not I.

*Mar.* Nor I my Lord in faith.

*Ham.*



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

*Ham.* Vppon my sword.

*Mar.* We haue sworne my Lord already.

*Ham.* Indeepe vppon my sword, indeed.

*Ghost cries vnder the Stage.*

*Ghost.* Swear.

*Ham.* Ha, ha, boy, say'st thou so, art thou there trupenny?

Come on, you heare this fellowe in the Sellerige,

Consent to sweare.

*Hra.* Propose the oath my Lord.

*Ham.* Neuer to speake of this that you haue seene

Sweare by my sword.

*Ghost.* Swear.

*Ham.* Hic, & vbiq, then weele shift our ground:

Come hether Gentlemen

And lay your hands againe vpon my sword,

Sweare by my sword

Neuer to speake of this that you haue heard.

*Ghost.* Swear by his sword.

*Ham.* Well sayd olde Mole, can't worke it h earth so fast,

A worthy Pioner, once more remooue good friends.

*Hra.* O day and night, but this is wondrous strange.

*Ham.* And therefore as a stranger giue it welcome,

There are more things in heauen and earth *Horatio*

Then are dream't of in your philosophie, but come

Heere as before, neuer so helpe you mercy,

(How strange or odde so mere I beare my selfe,

As I perchance heereafter shall thinke meet,

To put an Anticke disposition on

That you at such times seeing me, neuer shall

With armes incombred thus, or this head shake,

Or by pronouncing off some doubtfull phrase,

As well, well, we knowe, or we could and if we would,

Or if we list to speake, or there be and if they might,

Or such ambiguous giuing out, to note)

That you knowe ought of me, this doe sweare,

So grace and mercy at your most neede helpe you.

*Ghost.* Swear.

*Ham.* Rest, rest, perturbed spirit: so Gentlemen,

Withall my loue I doe commend me to you,

## Prince of Denmarke.

And what so poore a man as *Hamlet* is,

May doe't expresse his loue and frending to you

God willing shall not lack, let vs goe in together,

And still your fingers on your lips I pray,

The time is out of ioynt. O cursed spight

That euer I was borne to set it right.

Nay come, lets goe together.

*Exeunt.*

*Enter old Polonius, with his man or two.*

*Pol.* Giue him this money, and these notes *Reynaldo*:

*Rey.* I will my Lord.

*Pol.* You shall doe meruiles wisely good *Reynaldo*,

Before you visite him, to make inquire

Of his behauiour.

*Rey.* My Lord, I did intend it.

*Pol.* Mary well said, very well said; looke you fir,

Enquire me first what Danskers are in Parris,

And how, and who, what meanes, and where they keepe,

What companie, at what expence, and finding

By this encompassment, and drift of question

That they doe know my sonne, come you more neerer

Then your perticuler demaunds will rutch it,

Take you as were some distant knowledge of him,

As thus, I know his father, and his friends,

And in part him, doe you marke this *Reynaldo*?

*Rey.* I, very well my Lord.

*Pol.* And in part him, but you may say, not well,

But y<sup>e</sup> be he I meane, hee's very wilde,

Adicted so and so, and there put on him

What forgeries you please, marry none so ranck

As may dishonour him, take heede of that,

But fir, such wanton, wild, and vsuall slips,

As are companions noted and most knowne

To youth and libertie.

*Rey.* As gaming my Lord.

*Pol.* I, or drinking, fencing, swearing,

Quarrelling, drabbing, you may goe so far.

*Rey.* My Lord, that would dishonour him.

*Pol.* Fayth as you may sealon it in the charge.

E.

You



# The Tragedie of Hamlet

You must not put another scandell on him,  
That he is open to incontinencie,  
That's not my meaning, but breath his faults so quently  
That they may seeme the taints of libertie,  
The flash and out-breake of a fierie mind,  
A sauagenes in vnreclaimed blood,  
Of generall assault.

Rey. But my good Lord.

Pol. Wherefore should you doe this?

Rey. I my Lord, I would know that.

Pol. Marry sir, heer's my drift,

And I believe it is a fetch of wit,

You laying these slight fallies on my sonne

As t'were a thing a little soyl'd with working,

Marke you, your partie in conuerse, him you would sound

Having euer seene in the prenominat crimes

The youth you breath of guiltie, be assur'd

He closes with you in this consequence,

Good sir, (or so,) or friend, or gentleman,

According to the phrase; or the addision

Of man and country.

Rey. Very good my Lord.

Pol. And then sir doos a this, a doos, what was I about to say?

By the masse I was about to say something;

Where did I leaue?

Rey. At closes in the consequence.

Pol. At closes in the consequence, I marry,

He closes thus, I know the gentleman,

I saw him yesterday, or th'other day,

Or then, or then, with such or such, and as you say,

There was a gaming there, or tooke in's rowle,

There falling out at Tennis, or perchance

I saw him enter such a house of sale,

Videlizet, a brothell, or so foorth, see you now,

Your bait of falshood take this carpe of truth,

And thus doe we of wisedome, and of reach,

With windleses, and with assaies of bias,

By indirections find directions out,

So by my former lecture and aduise

# Prince of Denmarke.

Shall you my sonne; you haue me, haue you not?

Rey. My Lord, I haue.

Pol. God buy ye, far ye well.

Rey. Good my Lord.

Pol. Obserue his inclination in your selfe.

Rey. I shall my Lord.

Pol. And let him ply his musique.

Rey. Well my Lord.

Exit Rey.

Enter Ophelia.

Pol. Farewell. How now Ophelia, whats the matter?

Oph. O my Lord, my Lord, I haue beene so affrighted,

Pol. With what i'th name of God?

Oph. My Lord, as I was sowing in my closset,

Lord Hamlet with his doublet all vnbrac'd,

No hat vpon his head, his stockings fouled,

Vngartred, and downe gyued to his ancle,

Pale as his shirt, his knees knocking each other,

And with a looke so pittious in purport

As if he had been loosed out of hell

To speake of horrors, he comes before me.

Pol. Mad for thy loue?

Oph. My lord I doe not know,

But truly I doe feare it.

Pol. What said he?

Oph. He tooke me by the wrist, and held me hard,

Then goes he to the length of all his arme,

And with his other hand thus ore his brow,

He falls to such perusall of my face

As a would draw it, long stayd he so,

At last, a little shaking of mine arme,

And thrice his head thus wauiug vp and downe,

He raisd a sigh so pittious and profound

As it did seeme to shatter all his bulke,

And end his beeing; that done, he lets me goe,

And with his head ouer his shoulder torn'd

Hee seem'd to find his way without his eyes,

For out adoores he went without theyr helps,

And to the last bended their light on me.

E 2

Pol.



*The Tragedie of Hamlet*

*Pol.* Come, goe with mee, I will goe seeke the King,  
This is the very extacie of loue,  
Whose violent propertie fordoos it selfe,  
And leades the will to desperat vndertakings  
As oft as any pactions vnder heauen  
That dooes afflict our natures: I am sorry,  
What, haue you giuen him any hard words of late?

*Oph.* No my good Lord, but as you did commaund  
I did repell his letters, and denied  
His access to me.

*Pol.* That hath made him mad:  
I am sorry, that with better heede and iudgement  
I had not coted him, I fear'd he did but trifle  
And meant to wrack thee, but bestrow my Ielousie:  
By heauen it is as proper to our age  
To cast beyond our selues in our opinions,  
As it is common for the younger sort  
To lack discretion; come, goe we to the King,  
This must be knowne, which beeing kept close, might moue  
More griefe to hide, then hate to vtter loue,  
Come.

*Exeunt.*

*Florisb.* Enter King and Queene, Rosencraus and  
Gylidensterne.

*King.* Welcome deere Rosencraus, and Gylidensterne,  
Moreouer, that we much did long to see you,  
The need we haue to vse you did prouoke  
Our hastie sending, something haue you heard  
Of Hamlets transformation, so call it,  
Sith nor th'exterior, nor the inward man  
Resembles that it was, what it should be,  
More then his fathers death, that thus hath put him  
So much from th'vnderstanding of himselfe  
I cannot dreame of: I entreate you both  
That beeing of so young dayes brought vp with him,  
And sith so nabored to his youth and havior,  
That you voutsafe your rest heere in our Court  
Some little time, so by your companies  
To draw him on to pleasures, and to gather

*Prince of Denmarke.*

So much as from occasion you may gleane,  
Whether ought to vs vnkowne afflicts him thus,  
That opend lyes within our remedie.

*Quee.* Good gentlemen, he hath much talkt of you,  
And sure I am, two men there is not liuing  
To whom he more adheres, if it will please you  
To shew vs so much gentry and good will,  
As to expend your time with vs a while,  
For the supply and profit of our hope,  
Your visitation shall receiue such thanks  
As fits a Kings remembrance.

*Ros.* Both your Maiesties  
Might by the soueraigne power you haue of vs,  
Put your dread pleasures more into commaund  
Then to entreatie.

*Gyl.* But we both obey.  
And heere giue vp our selues in the full bent,  
To lay our seruice freely at your feete  
To be commaunded.

*King.* Thanks Rosencraus, and gentle Gylidensterne.

*Quee.* Thanks Gylidensterne, and gentle Rosencraus.  
And I beseech you instantly to visite  
My too much changed sonne, goe some of you  
And bring these gentlemen where Hamlet is.

*Gyl.* Heauens make our presence and our practices  
Pleasant and helpfull to him.

*Quee.* I Amen.

*Exeunt Ros. and Gyl.*

*Enter Polonius.*

*Pol.* Th'embassadors from Norway my good Lord,  
Are ioyfully returnd.

*King.* Thou still hast been the father of good newes.

*Pol.* Haue I my Lord? I assure my good Liege  
I hold my durie as I hold my soule,  
Both to my God, and to my gracious King;  
And I doe thinke, or els this braine of mine  
Hunts not the trayle of policie so sure  
As it hath vld to doe, that I haue found  
The very cause of Hamlets lunacie.

*King.* O speake of that, that doe I long to heare.



# The Tragedie of Hamlet

*Pol.* Give first admittance to th'embassadors,  
My newes shall be the fruite to that great feast.

*King.* Thy selfe doe grace to them, and bring them in.  
He tells me my deere *Gertrard* he hath found  
The head and source of all your sonnes distemper.

*Quee.* I doubt it is no other but the maine  
His fathers death, and our hastie marriage.

*Enter Embassadors.*

*King.* Well, we shall list him, welcome my good friends,  
Say *Voltemand*, what from our brother *Norway*?

*Vol.* Most faire returne of greetings and desires;  
Vpon our first, he sent out to suppress  
His Nephews leuies, which to him appeard  
To be a preparation gainst the *Pollacke*,  
But better lookt into, he truly found  
It was against your highnes, whereat greu'd  
That so his sicknes, age, and impotence  
Was falsly borne in hand, sends out arrests  
On *Fortenbrasse*, which he in breefe obeyes,  
Receiues rebuke from *Norway*, and in fine,  
Makes vow before his Vncle neuer more  
To giue th'assay of Armes against your Maiestie:  
Whereon old *Norway* ouercome with ioy,  
Gives him threescore thousand crownes in anuall fee,  
And his commision to imploy those souldiers  
So leuied (as before) against the *Pollacke*,  
With an entreatie heerein further shone,  
That it might please you to giue quiet passe  
Through your dominions for this enterprise  
On such regards of safety and allowance  
As therein are set downe.

*King.* It likes vs well,  
And at our more considered time, wee'le read,  
Answer, and thinke vpon this busines:  
Meane time, we thanke you for your well tooke labour,  
Goe to your rest, at night wee'le feast together.  
Most welcome home.

*Exeunt Embassadors.*

*Pol.* This busines is well ended.

# Prince of Denmarke.

My Liege and Maddam, to expostulate  
What maiestie should be, what dutie is,  
Why day is day, night, night, and time is time,  
Were nothing but to wast night, day, and time,  
Therefore breuitie is the soule of wit,  
And tediousnes the lymmes and outward florishes,  
I will be brieft, your noble sonne is mad:  
Mad call I it, for to define true madnes,  
What ist but to be nothing els but mad,  
But let that goe.

*Quee.* More matter with lesse art.

*Pol.* Maddam, I sweare I vse no art at all,  
That hee's mad tis true, tis true, tis pittie,  
And pittie tis tis true, a foolish figure,  
But farewell it, for I will vse no art.  
Mad let vs graunt him then, and now remaines  
That we find out the cause of this effect,  
Or rather say, the cause of this defect,  
For this effect defectiue comes by cause:  
Thus it remaines, and the remainder thus  
Perpend,

I haue a daughter, haue while she is mine,  
Who in her dutie and obedience, marke,  
Hath giuen me this, now gather and surmise,

To the Celestiall and my soules Idoll, the most beau-  
rified Ophelia, that's an ill phrase, a vile phrase,  
beautified is a vile phrase, but you shall heare: thus in  
her excellent white bosome, these &c.

*Quee.* Came this from Hamlet to her?

*Pol.* Good Maddam stay awhile, I will be faithfull,

*Letter.*  
Doubt thou the starres are fire,  
Doubt that the Sunne doth moue,  
Doubt truth to be a lye,  
But neuer doubt I loue.

O deere Ophelia, I am ill at these numbers, I haue not art to reckon  
my grones, but that I loue thee best, ô most best belieue it, adew.  
Thine euermore most deere Lady, whilst this machine is to him.

*Pol.* This in obedience hath my daughter showne me, (*Hamlet.*)  
And more about hath his solicitings.



The Tragedie of Hamlet

As they fell out by time, by meanes, and place,  
All giuen to mine eare.

King. But how hath she receiu'd his loue?

Pol. What doe you thinke of me?

King. As of a man faithfull and honorable.

Pol. I would faine proue so, but what might you thinke

When I had seene this hote loue on the wing,

As I perceiu'd it (I must tell you that)

Before my daughter told me, what might you,

Or my deere Maieslie your Queene heere thinke,

If I had playd the Deske, or Table booke,

Or giuen my hart a working mute and dumbe,

Or lookt vppon this loue with idle sight,

What might you thinke? no, I went round to worke,

And my young Mistris thus I did bespeake,

Lord Hamlet is a Prince out of thy star,

This must not be: and then I prescripts gaue her

That she should looke her selfe from her resort,

Admit no messengers, receiue no tokens,

Which done, she tooke the fruites of my aduise:

And he repell'd, a short tale to make,

Fell into a sadnes, then into a fast,

Thence to a wath, thence into a weakenes,

Thence to lightnes, and by this declension,

Into the madnes wherein now he raues,

And all we mourne for.

King. Doe you thinke this?

Quee. It may be very like.

Pol. Hath there been such a time, I would faine know that,

That I haue positiuely said, tis so,

When it proou'd otherwise?

King. Not that I know.

Pol. Take this, from this, if this be otherwise;

If circumstances leade me, I will finde

Where truth is hid, though it were hid indeede

Within the Center.

King. How may we try it further?

Pol. You know sometimes he walkes foure houres together  
Heere in the Lobby.

Prince of Denmarke.

Quee. So he dooes indeede.

Pol. At such a time, Ile loofe my daughter to him,  
Be you and I behind an Arras then,  
Marke the encounter, if he loue her not,  
And be not from his reason false thereon  
Let me be no assistant for a state  
But keepe a farme and carters.

King. We will try it.

Enter Hamlet.

Quee. But looke where sadly the poore wretch comes reading.

Pol. Away, I doe beseech you both away, Exit King and Queene.  
Ile bord him presently, oh giue me leaue,  
How dooes my good Lord Hamlet?

Ham. Well, God a mercy.

Pol. Doe you knowe me my Lord?

Ham. Excellent well, you are a Fishmonger.

Pol. Not I my Lord.

Ham. Then I would you were so honest a man.

Pol. Honest my Lord.

Ham. I fir to be honest as this world goes,  
Is to be one man pickt out of tenne thousand.

Pol. That's very true my Lord.

Ham. For if the sunne breede maggots in a dead dogge, being a  
good kissing carrion. Haue you a daughter?

Pol. I haue my Lord.

Ham. Let her not walke i'th Sunne, conception is a blessing,  
But as your daughter may conceaue, friend looke to't.

Pol. How say you by that, still harping on my daughter; yet hee  
knewe me not at first, a sayd I was a Fishmonger, a is farre gone,  
and truly in my youth, I suffred much extremity for loue, very  
neere this. Ile speake to him againe. What doe you reade my  
Lord.

Ham. Words, words, words.

Pol. What is the matter my Lord.

Ham. Betweene who.

Pol. I meane the matter that you reade my Lord.

Ham. Slaunders fir; for the satericall rogue sayes heere, that old  
men haue gray beards, that their faces are wrinkled, their eyes  
purging thick Amber, & pluntree gum, & that they haue a plen-

F.

tifull



### The Tragedie of Hamlet

rifull lacke of wit, together with most weake hams, all which fir though I most powerfully and potentlie belieue, yet I hold it not honesty to haue it thus set downe, for your selfe fir shall growe old as I am: iflike a Crab you could goe backward.

*Pol.* Though this be madnesse, yet there is method in't, will you walke out of the ayre my Lord?

*Ham.* Into my graue.

*Pol.* Indeepe that's out of the ayre; how pregnant sometimes his replies are, a happines that often madnesse hits on, which reason and sanctity could not so prosperously be deliuered of. I will leaue him and my daughter. My Lord, I will take my leaue of you.

*Ham.* You cannot take from mee any thing that I will not more willingly part withall: except my life, except my life, except my life.

*Enter Gnyldessterne, and Rosencrans.*

*Pol.* Fare you well my Lord.

*Ham.* These tedious old fooles.

*Pol.* You goe to seeke the Lord Hamlet, there he is.

*Ref.* God saue you fir.

*Gnyl.* My honor'd Lord.

*Ref.* My most deere Lord.

*Ham.* My extant good friends, how doost thou Gnyldessterne?

*A Rosencrans,* good lads how doe you both?

*Ref.* As the indifferent children of the earth.

*Gnyl.* Happy, in that we are not euer happy on Fortunes lap; We are not the very button.

*Ham.* Nor the soles of her shooe.

*Ref.* Neither my Lord.

*Ham.* Then you liue about her wast, or in the middle of her fa-

*Gnyl.* Faith her priuates we.

*Ham.* In the secret parts of Fortune, oh most true, she is a strumpet, What newes?

*Ref.* None my Lord, but the worlds growne honest.

*Ham.* Then is Doomes day neere, but your newes is not true; But in the beaten way of friendship, what make you at Elsonoure?

*Ref.* To visit you my Lord, no other occasion.

*Ham.* Begger that I am, I am euer poore in thankes, but I thank you, and sure deare friends, my thankes are too deare a halfpenny: were you not sent for? is it your owne inclining? is it a free visitation? come, come, deale iustly with me, come, come, nay speake.

*Gnyl.* What should we say my Lord?

### Prince of Denmarke.

*Ham.* Any thing but to'th purpose: you were sent for, and there is a kind of confesion in your lookes, which your modesties haue not craft enough to cullour, I know the good King and Queene haue sent for you.

*Ref.* To what end my Lord?

*Ham.* That you must teach me: but let me coniure you, by the rights of our fellowship, by the consonancie of our youth, by the obligation of our euer preserued loue; and by what more deare a better proposer can charge you withall, bee euen and direct with me whether you were sent for or no.

*Ref.* What say you.

*Ham.* Nay then I haue an eye of you: if you loue me hold not of.

*Gnyl.* My Lord we were sent for.

*Ham.* I will tell you why, so shall my anticipation prevent your discouery, and your secrecie to the King & Queene moult no feather, I haue of late, but wherefore I knowe not, lost all my mirth, forgon all custome of exercises: and indeede it goes so heauily with my disposition, that this goodly frame the earth, seemes to mee a sterill promontorie, this most excellent Canopie the ayre, looke you, this braue orchanging firmament, this maiesticall roose fretted with golden fire, why it appeareth nothing to me but a foule and pestilent congregation of vapours. What peece of worke is a man, how noble in reason, how infinit in faculties, in forme and moouing, how expresse and admirable in action, how like an Angell in apprehension, how like a God: the beautie of the world; the paragon of Annimales; and yet to me, what is this Quintessence of dust: man delights not me, nor women neither, though by your smiling, you seeme to say so.

*Ref.* My Lord, there was no such stufte in my thoughts.

*Ham.* Why did yee laugh then, when I sayd man delights not me.

*Ref.* To thinke my Lord if you delight not in man, what Lenton entertainment the players shall receaue from you, we coted them on the way, and hether are they comming to offer you seruice.

*Ham.* He that playes the King shal be welcome, his Maiestie shal haue tribute on me, the aduenterous Knight shal vse his foyle and target, the Louer shal not sigh gratis, the humorus Man shal end his part in peace, and the Lady shal say her minde freely: or the black verse shal hault for't. What players are they?

*Ref.* Euen those you were wont to take such delight in, the Tragedians of the Curry.



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

*Ham.* How chanceth it they trauaile? their residence both in reputation, and profit was better both wayes.

*Ref.* I thinke their inhibition, comes by the meanes of the late innouation.

*Ham.* Doe they hold the same estimation they did when I was in the Citty; are they so followed.

*Ref.* No indeede are they not.

*Ham.* It is not very strange, for my Vncle is King of Denmarke, and those that would make mouths at him while my father liued, giue twenty, fortie, fifty, a hundred duckers a peece, for his Picture in little, s'bloud there is something in this more then naturall, if Philosophie could find it out.

*A Florish.*

*Gyl.* There are the players.

*Ham.* Gentlemen you are welcome to *Elsonoure*, your hands come then, th'appurtenance of welcome is fashion and ceremonie; let mee comply with you in this garb: let me extent to the players, which I tell you must shoue fairely outwards, should more appeare like entertainment then yours: you are welcome: but my Vncle-father, and Aunt-mother, are deceaued.

*Gyl.* In what my deare Lord.

*Ham.* I am but mad North North west; when the wind is Southerly, I knowe a Hauke, from a hand saw.

*Enter Polonius.*

*Pol.* Well be with you Gentlemen.

*Ham.* Harke you *Guyldensterne*, and you to, at each eare a hearer, that great baby you see there is not yet out of his swadling clouts.

*Ref.* Happily he is the second time come to them, for they say an old man is twice a child.

*Ham.* I will prophecy, he comes to tell me of the players, mark it, You say right fir, a Monday morning, 'twas then indeede.

*Pol.* My Lord I haue newes to tell you.

*Ham.* My Lord I haue newes to tel you: when *Rossius* was an Actor in Rome.

*Pol.* The Actors are come hether my Lord.

*Ham.* Buz, buz.

*Pol.* Vppon my honor.

*Ham.* Then came each Actor on his Asse.

*Pol.* The best actors in the world, either for Tragedie, Comedy, History, Pastorall, Pastorall Comickall, Historicall Pastorall, scene indeuidible.

## Prince of Denmarke.

indeuidible, or Poem vnlimited. *Seneca* cannot be too heavy, nor *Plautus* too light for the lawe of writ, and the liberty: these are the only men.

*Ham.* O *Ieptha* Iudge of Israell, what a treasure had'st thou?

*Pol.* What a treasure had he my Lord?

*Ham.* Why one faire daughter and no more, the which he loued passing well.

*Pol.* Still on my daughter.

*Ham.* Am I not i'th right old *Ieptha*?

*Pol.* If you call me *Ieptha* my Lord, I haue a daughter that I loue (passing well.

*Ham.* Nay that followes not.

*Pol.* What followes then my Lord?

*Ham.* Why as by lot God wot, and then you knowe it came to passe, as most like it was; the first rowe of the pious chanson will shoue you more, for looke where my abridgment comes.

*Enter the Players.*

*Ham.* You are welcome maisters, welcome all, I am glad to see thee well, welcome good friends, oh old friend, why thy face is vailant since I saw thee last, com'st thou to beard me in Denmarke? what my young Lady and mistris, by lady your Ladishippe is neter to heauen, then when I saw you last by the altitude of a chopine, pray God your voyce like a peece of vncurrent gold, bee not crackt within the ring: maisters you are all welcome, wee le ento't like friendly Fankners, fly at any thing we see, wee le haue a speech strait, come giue vs a talt of your quality, come a pafsionate speech.

*Player.* What speech my good Lord?

*Ham.* I heard thee speake me a speech once, but it was neuer acted, or if it was, not aboue once, for the play I remember pleas'd not the million, 'twas cauiary to the generall, but it was as I receaued it & others, whose iudgements in such matters cried in the top of mine, an excellent play, well digested in the scenes, set downe with as much modestie as cunning. I remember one sayd there were no fallers in the lines, to make the matter sauory, nor no matter in the phrase that might indite the author of affection, but cald it an honest method, as wholesome as sweete, & by very much, more handsome then fine: one speech in't I chiefly loued, 'twas *Aeneas* talke to *Dido*, & there about of it especially when he speakes of *Priams* slaughter, if it liue in your memory begin at this line, let me see, let me see, the rugged *Pirbus* like Th'ircanian



### The Tragedie of Hamlet

beast, tis not so, it beginnes with *Pirrhbus*, the rugged *Pirrhbus*, he whose  
fable Armes,

Black as his purpose did the night resemble,  
When he lay couched in th'omynous horse,  
Hath now this dread and black complexion smeard,  
With heraldy more dismall head to foote,  
Now is he totall Gules horridly trickt

With blood of fathers, mothers, daughters, sonnes,  
Bak'd and empast with the parching streetes  
That lend a tirrabus and a damned light

To their Lords murther, rosted in wrath and fire,  
And thus ore-cis'd with coagulate gore,

With eyes like Carbunkles, the hellish *Pirrhbus*  
Old grandfire *Priam* seekes; so proceede you.

*Pol.* Foregod my Lord well spoken, with good accent and good

*Play.* Anon he finds him, (discretion,

Striking too short at Greekes, his anticke sword

Rebellious to his arme, lies where it fals,

Repugnant to commaund; vnequall matcht,

*Pirrhbus* at *Priam* driues, in rage strikes wide,

But with the whiffe and winde of his fell sword,

Th'vnnerved father fals:

Seeming to feele this blowe, with flaming top

Stoopest to his bafe; and with a hiddious crash

Takes prisoner *Pirrhbus* eare, for loe his sword

Which was declining on the milkie head

Of reuerent *Priam*, seem'd i'th ayre to stick,

So as a painted tirant *Pirrhbus* stood

Like a newtrall to his will and matter,

Did nothing:

But as we often see against some storme,

A silence in the heauens, the racke stand still,

The bold winds speechlesse, and the orbe belowe

As hush as death, anon the dreadful thunder

Doth rend the region, so after *Pirrhbus* pause,

A rowfed vengeance sets him new a worke,

And neuer did the Cyclops hammers fall,

On *Myses* Armor forg'd for prooffe eterne,

With lesse remorse then *Pirrhbus* bleeding sword

Now falls on *Priam*.

### Prince of Denmarke.

Out, out, thou strumpet Fortune, all you gods,

In generall sinod take away her power,

Breake all the spokes, and follies from her wheele,

And boule the round naue downe the hill of heauen

As lowe as to the fiends.

*Pol.* This is too long.

*Ham.* It shall to the barbers with your beard; prethee say on, he's  
for a ligge, or a tale of bawdry, or he sleepest, say on, come to *Hecuba*.

*Play.* But who, a woe, had seene the mobled Queene,

*Ham.* The mobled Queene.

*Pol.* That's good.

*Play.* Runne barefoote vp and downe, threatning the flames

With *Bison* rehome, a clout vppon that head

Where late the Diadem stood, and for a robe,

About her lanck and all ore-teamed loynes,

A blancket in the alarme of feare caught vp,

Who this had scene, with tongue in venom steep,

Gainst fortunes state would treason haue pronounst;

But if the gods themselues did see her then,

When she saw *Pirrhbus* make malicious sport

In mincing with his sword her husb and limmes,

The instant burst of clamor that she made,

Vnlesse things mortall moue them not at all,

Would haue made milch the burning eyes of heauen

And passion in the gods.

*Pol.* Looke where he has not turnd his cullour, and has teares in's  
eyes, prethee no more.

*Ham.* Tis well, Ile haue thee speake out the rest of this soone,

Good my Lord will you see the players well bestowed; doe you

heare, let them be well vsed, for they are the abstract and breefe

Chronicles of the time; after your death you were better haue a

bad Epitaph then their ill report while you liue.

*Pol.* My Lord, I will vse them according to their desert.

*Ham.* Gods bodkin man, much better, vse euery man after his de-

sert, & who shall scape whipping, vse them after your owne honor

and dignity, the lesse they deserue the more meritt is in your boun-

ty. Take them in.

*Pol.* Come sirs.

*Ham.* Follow him friends, wee le heare a play to morrow; dost thou  
heare



# The Tragedie of Hamlet

heare me old friend, can you play the murther of Gonzago?

*Play.* I my Lord.

*Ham.* Weele hate to morrowe night, you could for neede study a speech of some dosen lines, or sixteene lines, which I would set downe and insert in't, could you not?

*Play.* I my Lord.

*Ham.* Very well, followe that Lord, & looke you mock him not. My good friends, Ile leaue you tell night, you are welcome to Elsinore.

*Exeunt Pol. and Players.*

*Ref.* Good my Lord.

*Exeunt.*

*Ham.* I so God buy to you, now I am alone,  
O what a rogue and pefant slaue am I.  
Is it not monstrous that this player heere  
But in a fixion, in a dreame of pafsion  
Could force his soule so to his owne conceit  
That from her working all the visage wand,  
Teares in his eyes, distraction in his aspect,  
A broken voyce, an his whole function futing  
With formes to his conceit; and all for nothing,  
For Hecuba.

What's Hecuba to him, or he to her,  
That he should weepe for her? what would he doe  
Had he the motiue, and that for pafsion  
That I haue? he would drowne the stage with teares,  
And cleaue the generall eare with horrid speech,  
Make mad the guilty, and appale the free,  
Confound the ignorant, and amaze indeede  
The very faculties of eyes and eares; yet I,  
A dull and muddy metteld raskall peake,  
Like Iohn-a-dreames, vnpregnant of my cause,  
And can say nothing; no not for a King,  
Vpon whose property and most deare life,  
A damn'd defeate was made: am I a coward,  
Who cals me villaine, breakes my pate a crosse,  
Pluckes off my beard, and blowes it in my face,  
Twekes me by the nose, giues me the lie i'th thraote  
As deepe as to the lunges, who does me this,  
Hah, s'wounds I should take it: for it cannot be  
But I am pidgion liuerd, and lack gall

# Prince of Denmarke.

To make oppression bitter, or ere this  
I should a fatted all the region kytes  
With this slaues offall, bloody, baudy villaine,  
Remorselesse, trecherous, lecherous, kindlesse villaine.  
Why what an Ass am I, this is most braue,  
That I the sonne of a deere murdered,  
Prompted to my reuenge by heauen and hell,  
Must like a whore vnpacke my hart with words,  
And fall a cursing like a very drabbe; a stallyon, sic vppont, foh,  
About my braues; hum, I haue heard,  
That guilty creatures sitting at a play,  
Haue by the very cunning of the scene,  
Beene strooke so to the soule, that presently  
They haue proclaim'd their malefactions:  
For murther, though it haue no tongue will speake  
With most miraculous organ: Ile haue these Players  
Play something like the murther of my father  
Before mine Vncle, Ile obserue his lookes,  
Ile tent him to the quicke, if a doe blench.  
I know my course. The spirit that I haue scene  
May be a deale, and the deale hath power  
T'assume a pleasing shape, yea, and perhaps,  
Out of my weakenes, and my melancholy,  
As he is very potent with such spirits,  
Abuses me to damne me; Ile haue grounds  
More relative then this, the play's the thing  
Wherein Ile catch the conscience of the King.

*Enter King, Queene, Polonius, Ophelia, Rosencrans, Gyl-  
densterne, Lords.*

*King.* An can you by no drift of conference  
Get from him why he puts on this confusion,  
Grating so harshly all his dayes of quiet  
With turbulent and dangerous lunacie?  
*Ref.* He dooes confesse he feelles himselfe distracted,  
But from what cause, a will by no meanes speake.  
*Gyl.* Nor doe we find him forward to be sounded,  
But with a craftie madnes keepes aloofen  
When we would bring him on to some confession



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

Of his true state.

*Quee.* Did he receiue you well?

*Ros.* Most like a gentleman.

*Guy.* But with much forcing of his disposition.

*Ros.* Niggard of question, but of our demands  
Most free in his reply.

*Quee.* Did you assay him to any pastime?

*Ros.* Maddam, it so fell out that certaine Players  
We ore-raught on the way, of these we told him,  
And there did seeme in him a kind of ioy  
To heare of it: they are heere about the Court,  
And as I thinke, they haue already order  
This night to play before him.

*Pol.* Tis most true,  
And he beseecht me to intreat your Maiesties  
To heare and see the matter.

*King.* With all my hart,  
And it doth much content me  
To heare him so inclin'd.

Good gentlemen giue him a further edge,  
And drive his purpose into these delights.

*Ros.* We shall my Lord. *Exeunt Ros. & Gyl.*

*King.* Sweet Gertrard, leaue vs two,  
For we haue closely sent for Hamlet hether,  
That he as t'were by accedent, may heere  
Affront *Ophelia*; her father and my selfe,  
Wee'le so bestow our selues, that seeing vnscene,  
We may of their encounter franckly iudge,  
And gather by him as he is behau'd,  
If it be th'affliction of his loue or no  
That thus he suffers for.

*Quee.* I shall obey you.  
And for your part *Ophelia*, I doe wish  
That your good beauties be the happy cause  
Of Hamlets wildnes, so shall I hope your vertues,  
Will bring him to his wonted way againe,  
To both your honours.

*Oph.* Maddam, I wish it may.

*Pol.* *Ophelia* walke you heere, gracious so please you,

## Prince of Denmarke.

We will bestow our selues; reade on this booke,  
That show of such an exercise may cullour  
Your lowlines; we are oft too blame in this,  
Tis too much proou'd, that with deuotions visage  
And pious action, we doe sugar ore  
The deuill himselfe.

*King.* O tis too true,  
How smart a lath that speech doth giue my conscience.  
The harlots cheeke beautied with plastring art,  
Is not more ongly to the thing that helps it,  
Then is my deede to my most painted word:  
O heauy burthen.

*Enter Hamlet.*

*Pol.* I heare him comming, with-draw my Lord.

*Ham.* To be, or not to be, that is the question,  
Whether tis nobler in the minde to suffer  
The slings and arrowes of outrageous fortune,  
Or to take Armes against a sea of troubles,  
And by opposing, end them, to die to sleepe,  
No more, and by a sleepe, to say we end  
The hart-ake, and the thousand naturall shocks  
That flesh is heire to; tis a consumation  
Deuoutly to be wisht to die to sleepe,  
To sleepe, perchance to dreame, I there's the rub,  
For in that sleepe of death what dreames may come  
When we haue shuffled off this mortall coyle  
Must giue vs pause, there's the respect  
That makes calamitie of so long life:  
For who would beare the whips and scornes of time,  
Th'oppressors wrong, the proude mans contumely,  
The pangs of despiz'd loue, the lawes delay,  
The insolence of office, and the spurnes  
That patient merriit of th'vnworthy takes,  
When he himselfe might his quietas make  
With a bare bodkin; who would fardels beare,  
To grunt and sweat vnder a wearie life,  
But that the dread of something after death,  
The vndiscover'd country, from whose borne



The Tragedie of Hamlet

No trauiler returns, puzzels the will,  
And makes vs rather beare those ills we haue,  
Then flie to others that we know not of,  
Thus conscience dooes make cowards,  
And thus the native hiew of resolution  
Is sickled ore with the pale cast of thought,  
And enterprises of great pitch and moment,  
With this regard their currents turne awry,  
And loofe the name of action. Soft you now,  
The faire *Ophelia*, Nimph in thy orizons  
Be all my finnes remembred.

*Oph.* Good my Lord,  
How dooes your honour for this many a day?

*Ham.* I humbly thanke you well.

*Oph.* My Lord, I haue remembrances of yours  
That I haue longed long to redeliuer,  
I pray you now receiue them.

*Ham.* No, not I, I neuer gaue you ought.

*Oph.* My honor'd Lord, you know right well you did,  
And with them words of so sweet breath composd  
As made these things more rich, their perfume lost,  
Take these againe, for to the noble mind  
Rich gifts wax poore when giuers prooue vnkind,  
There my Lord.

*Ham.* Ha, ha, are you honest.

*Oph.* My Lord.

*Ham.* Are you faire?

*Oph.* What meanes your Lordship?

*Ham.* That if you be honest & faire, you should admit  
no discourse to your beautie.

*Oph.* Could beautie my Lord haue better comers  
Then with honestie?

*Ham.* I truly, for the power of beautie will sooner transforme  
honestie from what it is to a bawde, then the force of honestie can trans-  
late beautie into his likenes, this was sometime a paradox, but now  
time giues it prooffe, I did loue you once.

*Oph.* Indeed my Lord you made me belieue so.

*Ham.* You should not haue beleu'd me, for vertue cannot so  
euocat our old stock, but we shall relish of it, I loued you not.

Prince of Denmarke.

*Oph.* I was the more deceiued.

*Ham.* Get thee a Nunry, why would'st thou be a breeder of sin-  
ners, I am my selfe indifferent honest, but yet I could accuse mee of  
such things, that it were better my Mother had not borne mee: I am  
very proude, reuengefull, ambitious, with more offences at my beck,  
then I haue thoughts to put them in, imagination to giue them shape,  
or time to act them in: what should such fellowes as I do crawling be-  
twene earth and heauen, wee are arrant knaues, belecue none of vs,  
goe thy waies to a Nunry. Where's your father?

*Oph.* At home my Lord.

*Ham.* Let the doores be shut vpon him,  
That he may play the foole no where but in's owne house,  
Farewell.

*Oph.* O helpe him you sweet heauens.

*Ham.* If thou doost marry, Ile giue thee this plague for thy dow-  
rie, be thou as chaste as yce, as pure as snow, thou shalt not escape ca-  
lunny; get thee to a Nunry, farewell. Or if thou wilt needes marry,  
marry a foole, for wise men knowe well enough what monsters you  
make of them: to a Nunry goe, and quickly to, farewell.

*Oph.* Heauenly powers restore him.

*Ham.* I haue heard of your paintings well enough, God hath gi-  
uen you one face, and you make your selves another, you gig & am-  
ble, and you list you nickname Gods creatures, and make your wan-  
tonnes ignorance; goe to, Ile no more on't, it hath made me madde,  
I say we will haue no mo marriage, those that are married alreadie, all  
but one shall liue, the rest shall keep as they are: to a Nunry go. *Exit.*

*Oph.* O what a noble mind is heere orethrowne!  
The Courtiers, souldiers, schollers, eye, tongue, sword,  
Th'expectation, and Rose of the faire state,  
The glasse of fashion, and the mould of forme,  
Th'obseru'd of all obseruers, quite quite downe,  
And I of Ladies most deieft and wretched,  
That suckt the honny of his musickt vowes;  
Now see what noble and most soueraigne reason  
Like sweet bells iangled out of time, and harsh,  
That vnmatcht forme, and stature of blowne youth  
Blasted with extacie, ô woe is mee  
Th'haue seene what I haue seene, see what I see.



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

*Enter King and Polonius.*

*King.* Loue, his affections doe not that way tend,  
Nor what he spake, though it lackt forme a litle,  
Was not like madnes, there's something in his soule  
Ore which his melancholy sits on brood,  
And I doe doubt, the hatch and the disclose  
VWill be some danger; which for to preuent,  
I haue in quick determination  
Thus set it downe: he shall with speede to *England*,  
For the demaund of our neglected tribute,  
Haply the seas, and countries different,  
With variable obiects, shall expell  
This something fetled matter in his hart,  
Whereon his braines still beating  
Puts him thus from fashion of himselfe.  
What thinke you on't?

*Pol.* It shall doe well.

But yet doe I belieue the origin and comencement of his greefe,  
Sprung from neglected loue: How now *Ophelia*?  
You neede not tell vs what Lord *Hamlet* said,  
We heard it all: my Lord, doe as you please,  
But if you hold it fit, after the play,  
Let his Queene-mother all alone intreate him  
To show his grieffe, let her be round with him,  
And Ile be plac'd (so please you) in the care  
Of all their conference, if she find him nor,  
To *England* send him: or confine him where  
Your wisdome best shall thinke.

*King.* It shall be so,

Madnes in great ones must not vnmatcht goe.

*Exeunt.*

*Enter Hamlet, and three of the Players.*

*Ham.* Speake the speech I pray you as I pronoun'd it to you, trippingly on the tongue, but if you mouth it as many of our Players do, I had as liue the towne cryer spoke my lines, nor doe not saw the ayre too much with your hand thus, but vse all gently, for in the very torrent tempest, and as I may say, whirlwind of your passion, you must acquire and beget a temperance, that may giue it smoothnesse, & it offends mee to the soule, to heare a robustious perwig-pated fellowe

## Prince of Denmarke.

tere a passion to totters, to very rags, to spleet the eares of the groundlings, vvhoe for the most part are capable of nothing but inexplicable dumbe shewes, and noyse: I would haue such a fellow whipt for ore-dooing Termagant, it out Herods Herod, pray you auoyde it.  
*Player.* I warrant your honour.

*Hamlet.* Be not too tame neither, but let your owne discretion be your tutor, sure the action to the word, the word to the action, with this speciall obseruance, that you ore-steppes not the modestie of nature: For any thing so ore-doone, is from the purpose of playing, whose end both at the first, and now, was and is, to holde as twere the Mirrour vp to nature, to shew vertue her feature; scorne her own Image, and the very age and body of the time his forme and pressure: Now this ouer-done, or come tardie off, though it makes the vnskilfull laugh, cannot but make the iudicious grieue, the censure of which one, must in your allowance ore-weigh a whole Theater of others. O there be Players that I haue seene play, and heard others prayd, and that highly, not to speake it prophanely, that neither haueing th'accent of Christians, nor the gate of Christian, Pagan, nor man, haue so strutted & bellowed, that I haue thought some of Natures Iornimen had made men, and not made them well, they imitated humanitie so abhominably.

*Player.* I hope we haue reform'd that indifferently with vs.

*Ham.* O reforme it altogether, and let those that play your clownes speake no more then is set downe for them, for there be of them that wil themselues laugh, to set on some quantitie of barraine spectators to laugh to, though in the meane time, some necessary question of the play be then to be considered; that's villanous, and shewes a most pittifull ambition in the foole that vses it: goe make you readie. How now my Lord, will the King heare this peece of worke?

*Enter Polonius, Gylidensterne, & Rosencraus.*

*Pol.* And the Queene to; and that presently.

*Ham.* Bid the Players make hast. Will you two help to hasten the.

*Ros.* I my Lord.

*Exeunt they two.*

*Ham.* What howe, *Horatio*.

*Enter Horatio.*

*Hora.* Heere sweet Lord, at your seruice.

*Ham.* *Horatio*, thou art een as iust a man

As ere my conuersation copt withall.

*Hora.* O my deere Lord.

*Ham.* Nay.



The Tragedie of Hamlet

Nay, doe not thinke I flatter,  
For what aduancement may I hope from thee  
That no reueneue hast but thy good spirits  
To feede and clothe thee, why should the poore be flattered?  
No, let the candied tongue licke absurd pompe,  
And crooke the pregnant hindges of the knee  
Where thrift may follow fauning; doost thou heare,  
Since my deare soule was mistress of her choice,  
And could of men distinguish her election,  
Sh'ath seald thee for herselfe, for thou hast been  
As one in suffering all that suffers nothing,  
A man that Fortunes buffets and rewards  
Hast tane with equall thanks; and blest are those  
Whose blood and iudgement are so well comedled,  
That they are not a pype for Fortunes finger  
To sound what stop she please: giue me that man  
That is not passions slaue, and I will weare him  
In my harts core, I in my hart of hart  
As I doe thee. Something too much of this,  
There is a play to night before the King,  
One scene of it comes neere the circumstance  
Which I haue told thee of my fathers death,  
I prethee when thou seest that act a foote,  
Euen with the very comment of thy soule  
Obserue my Vncle, if his occulted guilt  
Doe not it selfe vnkennill in one speech,  
It is a damned ghost that we haue scene,  
And my imaginations are as foule  
As *Vulcans* stithy; giue him heedfull note,  
For I mine eyes will riuert to his face,  
And after we will both our iudgements ioyne  
In censure of his seeming.  
*Hor.* Well my lord,  
If a steale ought the whilst this play is playing  
And scape detected, I will pay the theft.

*Enter Trumpets and Kettle Drummes, King, Quene,  
Polonius, Ophelia.*

*Ham.* They are comming to the play. I must be idle.

Prince of Denmarke.

Get you a place.

*King.* How fares our cosin *Hamlet*?

*Ham.* Excellent yfaith,  
Of the Camelions dish, I eate the ayre,  
Promiscram'd, you cannot feede Capons so.

*King.* I haue nothing with this aunswer *Hamlet*,  
These words are not mine.

*Ham.* No, nor mine now my Lord.  
You playd once i'th Vniuersitie you say,

*Pol.* That did I my Lord, and was accounted a good Actor,

*Ham.* What did you enact?

*Pol.* I did enact *Iulius Caesar*, I was kild i'th Capitall,  
*Brutus* kild mee.

*Ham.* It was a brute part of him to kill so capitall a calfe there,  
Be the Players readie?

*Res.* I my Lord, they stay vpon your patience.

*Ger.* Come hether my deere *Hamlet*, sit by me.

*Ham.* No good mother, heere's mettle more attractive.

*Pol.* O ho, doe you marke that.

*Ham.* Lady shall I lie in your lap?

*Oph.* No my Lord.

*Ham.* Doe you thinke I meant country matters?

*Oph.* I thinke nothing my Lord.

*Ham.* That's a fayre thought to lye betweene maydes legs.

*Oph.* What is my Lord?

*Ham.* Nothing.

*Oph.* You are merry my Lord.

*Ham.* Who I?

*Oph.* I my Lord.

*Ham.* O God your onely ligge-maker, what should a man do but  
be merry, for looke you how cheerefully my mother lookes, and my  
father died within's two howres.

*Oph.* Nay, tis twice two months my Lord.

*Ham.* So long, nay then let the deule weare blacke, for Ile haue a  
rote of fables; ô heauens, die two months agoe, and not forgotten yet,  
then there's hope a great mans memorie may out-live his life halfe a  
yeere, but ber Lady a must build Churches then, or els shall a suffer  
not thinking on, with the Hobby-horse, whose Epitaph is, for ô, for  
ô, the hobby-horse is forgot,

H.

*Enter*



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

*The Trumpets sounds. Dumb show follows.*

*Enter a King and a Queene, the Queene embracing him, and he her, he takes her up, and declines his head upon her necke, he lyes him downe upon a bancke of flowers, she seeing him asleepe, leaues him: anon come in another man, takes off his crowne, kisses it, pours poyson in the sleepers eares, and leaues him: the Queene returnes, finds the King dead, makes passionate action, the poyser with some three or foure come in againe, seeme to console with her, the dead body is carried away, the poyser wooes the Queene with gifts, shee seemes harsh awhile, but in the end accepts loue.*

Oph. VVhat meanes this my Lord?

Ham. Marry this munching *Mallisco*, it meanes mischief.

Oph. Belike this show imports the argument of the play.

Ham. We shall know by this fellow, *Enter Prologue.*

The Players cannot keepe, they'le tell all.

Oph. Will a tell vs what this show meant?

Ham. I, or any show that you will show him, be not you asham'd to show, heele not shame to tell you what it meanes.

Oph. You are naught, you are naught, Ile mark the play.

*Prologue.* For vs and for our Tragedie,  
Heere stooping to your clemencie,  
We begge your hearing patiently.

Ham. Is this a Prologue, or the posie of a ring?

Oph. Tis breefe my Lord.

Ham. As womans loue.

*Enter King and Queene.*

King. Full thirtie times hath *Phebus* cart gone round  
*Neptunes* salt wash, and *Tellus* orb'd the ground,  
And thirtie dosen Moones with borrowed sheene  
About the world haue times twelue thirties beene  
Since loue our harts, and *Hymen* did our hands  
Vnite comutuell in most sacred bands.

Quee. So many iourneyes may the Sunne and Moone  
Make vs againe count ore ere loue be doone,  
But woe is me, you are so sicke of late,  
So farre from cheere, and from our former state,  
That I distrust you, yet though I distrust,  
Discomfort you my Lord it nothing must.

## Prince of Denmarke.

For women feare too much, euen as they loue,  
And womens feare and loue hold quantitie,  
Eyther none, in neither ought, or in extremitie,  
Now what my Lord is prooffe hath made you know,  
And as my loue is ciz'd, my feare is so,  
Where loue is great, the litlest doubts are feare,  
Where little feares grow great, great loue growes there.

King. Faith I must leaue thee loue, and shortly to,  
My operant powers their functions leaue to do,  
And thou shalt liue in this faire world behind,  
Honord, belou'd, and haply one as kind,  
For husband shalt thou.

Quee. O confound the rest,  
Such loue must needes be treason in my brest,  
In second husband let me be accurst,  
None wed the second, but who kild the first.  
The instances that second marriage moue  
Are base respects of thrift, but none of loue,  
A second time I kill my husband dead,  
When second husband kisses me in bed.

Ham. That's  
wormwood

King. I doe belieue you thinke what now you speake,  
But what we doe determine, oft we breake,  
Purpose is but the slaue to memorie,  
Of violent birth, but poore validitie,  
Which now the fruite vnripe sticks on the tree,  
But fall vnshaken when they mellow bee.  
Most necessary tis that we forget  
To pay our selues what to our selues is debt,  
What to our selues in passion we propose,  
The passion ending, doth the purpose lose,  
The violence of eyther, grieve, or ioy,  
Their owne ennaatures with themselves destroy,  
Where ioy most reuels, grieve doth most lament,  
Greefe ioy, ioy grieves, on slender accedent,  
This world is not for aye, nor tis not strange,  
That euen our loues should with our fortunes change:  
For tis a question left vs yet to proue,  
Whether loue lead fortune, or els fortune loue.  
The great man downe, you marke his fauourite flies,



The Tragedie of Hamlet

The poore aduanc'd, makes friends of enemies,  
And hetherto doth loue on fortune tend,  
For who not needes, shall neuer lacke a friend,  
And who in want a hollow friend doth try,  
Directly seasons him his enemy.  
But orderly to end where I begunne,  
Our wills and fates doe so contrary runne,  
That our deuises still are ouerthrowne,  
Our thoughts are ours, their ends none of our owne,  
So thinke thou wilt no second husband wed,  
But die thy thoughts when thy first Lord is dead.

Quee. Nor earth to me giue foode, nor heauen light,  
Sport and repose lock from me day and night,  
To desperation turne my trust and hope,  
And Anchors cheere in prison be my scope,  
Each opposite that blacks the face of ioy,  
Meete what I would haue well, and it destroy,  
Both heere and hence pursue me lasting strife,  
If once I be a widdow, euer I be a wife.

King. Tis deeply sworne, sweet leaue me heere a while,  
My spirits grow dull, and faine I would beguile  
The tedious day with sleepe.

Quee. Sleepe rock thy braine,  
And neuer come mischance betweene vs twaine.

Ham. Madam, how like you this play?

Quee. The Lady doth protest too much mee thinks.

Ham. O but shee'le keepe her word.

King. Haue you heard the argument? is there no offence in't?

Ham. No, no, they do but iest, poyson in iest, no offence in't world.

King. What doe you call the play?

Ham. The Mousetrap, mary how tropically, this play is the Image  
of a murder doone in Vienna, Gonzago is the Dukes name, his wife  
Baptista, you shall see anon, tis a knauish peece of worke, but what of  
that? your Maiestie, and wee that haue free soules, it touches vs not,  
let the gauled Iade winch, our withers are vnwrong. This is one Lu-  
cianus, Nephew to the King.

Enter Lucianus.

Oph. You are as good as a Chorus my Lord.

Ham. I could interpret betweene you and your loue

Prince of Denmarke.

If I could see the puppets dallying.

Oph. You are keene my lord, you are keene.

Ham. It would cost you a groning to take off mine edge.

Oph. Still better and worse.

Ham. So you mistake your husbands. Beginne murtherer, leaue  
thy damnable faces and begin, come, the croking Rauens doth bellow  
for reuenge.

Luc. Thoughts black, hands apt, drugges fit, and time agreeing,  
Considerat season els no creature seeing,  
Thou mixture ranck, of midnight weedes collected,  
With Hecats ban thrice blasted, thrice inuected,  
Thy naturall magicke, and dire property,  
On wholsome life vsurps immediatly.

Ham. A poysons him with Garden for his estate, his names Gonzago,  
the story is extant, and written in very choice Italian, you shall see  
anon how the murtherer gets the loue of Gonzagoes wife.

Oph. The King rises.

Quee. How fares my Lord?

Pol. Giue ore the play.

King. Giue me some light, away.

Pol. Lights, lights, lights.

Exeunt all but Ham. & Horatio.

Ham. Why let the strooken Deere goe weepe,

The Hart vngauled play,

For some must watch while some must sleepe,

Thus runnes the world away. Would not this sir & a Forrest of feathers,  
if the rest of my fortunes turne Turk with me, with prouinciall  
Roses on my raz'd shooes, get me a fellowship in a cry of players?

Hora. Halfe a share.

Ham. A whole one I.

For thou doost know oh Damon deere

This Realme dismantled was

Of Ioue himselfe, and now raignes heere.

A very very paiock.

Hora. You might haue rym'd.

Ham. O good Horatio, Ile take the Ghosts word for a thousand  
pound. Didst perceiue?

Hora. Very well my Lord.

Ham. Vpon the talke of the poyfning.

Hor. I did very well note him.



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

*Ham.* Ah ha, come some musique, come the Recorders,  
For if the King like not the Comedie,  
Why then belike he likes it not perdy.  
Come, some musique,

*Enter Rosencrans and Gylidensterne.*

*Gyl.* Good my Lord, voutsafe me a word with you.

*Ham.* Sir a whole historie.

*Gyl.* The King sir.

*Ham.* I sir, what of him?

*Gyl.* Is in his retirement meruilous distempred.

*Ham.* With drinke sir?

*Gyl.* No my Lord, with choller,

*Ham.* Your wisdome should shewe it selfe more richer to signifie  
this to the Doctor, for, for mee to put him to his purgation, would  
perhaps plunge him into more choller.

*Gyl.* Good my Lord put your discourse into some frame,  
And stare not so wildly from my affaire.

*Ham.* I am tame sir, pronounce.

*Gyl.* The Queene your mother in most great affliction of spirit,  
hath sent me to you.

*Ham.* You are welcome.

*Gyl.* Nay good my Lord, this curtisie is not of the right breede, if  
it shall please you to make me a wholsome aunswere, I will doe your  
mothers commaundement, if not, your pardon and my returne, shall  
be the end of busines.

*Ham.* Sir I cannot.

*Ros.* What my Lord.

*Ham.* Make you a wholsome answer, my wits diseasd, but sir, such  
answere as I can make, you shall commaund, or rather as you say, my  
mother, therefore no more, but to the matter, my mother you say.

*Ros.* Then thus she sayes, your behaiour hath strooke her into a  
amazement and admiration.

*Ham.* O wonderful sonne that can so stonish a mother, but is there  
no sequell at the heeles of this mothers admiration, impart.

*Ros.* She desires to speak with you in her closet ere you go to bed.

*Ham.* We shall obey, were she ten times our mother, haue you any  
further trade with vs?

*Ros.* My Lord, you once did loue me.

*Ham.* And doe still by these pickers and stealers.

*Ros.*

## Prince of Denmarke.

*Ros.* Good my Lord, what is your cause of distemper, you do sure-  
ly barre the doore vpon your owne liberty if you deny your griefes to  
your friend.

*Ham.* Sir I lacke aduancement.

*Ros.* How can that be, when you haue the voyce of the King him-  
selfe for your succession in Denmarke.

*Enter the Players with Recorders.*

*Ham.* I sir, but while the grasse growes, the prouerbe is something  
musty, ô the Recorders, let mee see one, to withdraw with you, why  
doe you goe about to recouer the wind of mee, as if you would driue  
me into a toyle?

*Gyl.* O my lord, if my duty be too bold, my loue is too vnmanerly.

*Ham.* I do not wel vnderstand that, wil you play vpon this pipe?

*Gyl.* My lord I cannot.

*Ham.* I pray you.

*Gyl.* Beleeue me I cannot.

*Ham.* I doe beseech you.

*Gyl.* I know no touch of it my Lord.

*Ham.* It is as easie as lying; gouerne these ventages with your fin-  
gers, & the vंबर, giue it breath with your mouth, & it wil discourse  
most eloquent musique, looke you, these are the stops.

*Gyl.* But these cannot I commaund to any vttrance of harmonie, I  
haue not the skill.

*Ham.* Why looke you now how vnwoorthy a thing you make of  
me, you would play vpon mee, you would seeme to know my stops,  
you would plucke out the hart of my mistery, you would sound mee  
from my lowest note to my compasse, and there is much musique ex-  
cellent voyce in this litle organ, yet cannot you make it speak, s'bloud  
do you think I am easier to be plaid on, then a pipe, call mee what in-  
strument you wil, though you fret me not, you cannot play vpon me.  
God blesse you sir.

*Enter Polonius.*

*Pol.* My Lord, the Queene would speake with you, & presently.

*Ham.* Do you see yonder clowd that's almost in shape of a Camel?

*Pol.* By'th masse and tis, like a Camell indeed.

*Ham.* Mee thinks it is like a Wezell.

*Pol.* It is backt like a Wezell.

*Ham.* Or like a Whale.

*Pol.* Very like a Whale.

*Ham.* Then



# The Tragedie of Hamlet

Then I will come to my mother by and by,  
They foole me to the top of my bent, I will come by & by,  
Leane me friends.

I will, say so. By and by is easily said,  
Tis now the very witching time of night,  
When Churchyards yawne, and hell it selfe breakes out  
Contagion to this world: now could I drinke hote blood,  
And doe such busines as the bitter day  
Would quake to looke on: soft, now to my mother,  
O hart loose not thy nature, let not euer  
The soule of Nero enter this firme bosome,  
Let me be cruell, not vnnaturall,  
I will speake dagger to her, but vse none,  
My tongue and soule in this be hypocrites,  
How in my words someuer she be shent,  
To giue them scales neuer my soule consent. *Exit.*

*Enter King, Rosencraus, and Gyldesterne.*

*King.* I like him not, nor stands it safe with vs  
To let his madnes range, therefore prepare you,  
I your commission will forth with dispatch,  
And he to *England* shall along with you,  
The termes of our estate may not endure  
Hazard so neer's as doth hourly grow  
Out of his browes.

*Gyl.* We will our selues prouide,  
Most holy and religious feare it is  
To keepe those many many bodies safe  
That liue and feede vpon your Maiestie.

*Ros.* The single and peculier life is bound  
With all the strength and armour of the mind  
To keepe it selfe from noyance, but much more  
That spirit, vpon whose weale depends and rests  
The liues of many, the cesse of Maiestie  
Dies not alone; but like a gulfe doth draw  
What's neere it, with it, or it is a masie wheele  
Fixt on the somner of the highest mount,  
To whose hough spokes, tenne thousand lesser things  
Are morteist and adioynd, which when it falls,

# Prince of Denmarke.

Each small annexment petty consequence  
Attends the boystrous raine, neuer alone  
Did the King sigh, but a generall grone.

*King.* Arme you I pray you to this speedy viage,  
For we will fetters put about this feare  
Which now goes too free-footed.

*Ros.* We will hast vs. *Exeunt Gent.*

*Enter Polonius.*

*Pol.* My Lord, hee's going to his mothers closet,  
Behind the Arras I'll conuay my selfe  
To heare the proceffe, I'll warrant shee' letax him home,  
And as you sayd, and wisely was it sayd,  
Tis meete that some more audience then a mother,  
Since nature makes them parciall, should ore-heare  
The speech of vantage; farre you well my Leige,  
I'll call vpon you ere you goe to bed.  
And tell you what I knowe. *Exit.*

*King.* Thanks deere my Lord.

O my offence is ranck, it smels to heauen,  
It hath the primall eldest curse vppont,  
A brothers murther, pray can I not,  
Though inclination be as sharp as will,  
My stronger guilt defeats my strong entent,  
And like a man to double busines bound,  
I stand in pause where I shall first beginne,  
And both neglect, what if this curfed hand  
Were thicker then it selfe with brothers blood,  
Is there not raine enough in the sweete Heauens  
To wash it white as snowe, whereto serues mercy  
But to confront the visage of offence?  
And what's in prayer but this two fold force,  
• To be forestalled ere we come to fall,  
• Or pardon being downe, then I'll looke vp.  
My fault is past, but oh what forme of prayer  
Can serue my turne, forgieue me my foule murther,  
• That cannot be since I am still posselt  
• Of those effects for which I did the murther;  
My Crowne, mine owne ambition, and my Queene;

I.

May



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

May one be pardond and retaine th' offence?  
 In the corrupted currents of this world,  
 Offences guilded hand may shoue by iustice,  
 And oft tis seene the wicked prize it selfe  
 Buies out the lawe, but tis not so aboue,  
 There is no shuffling, there the action lies  
 In his true nature, and we our selues compeld  
 Even to the teeth and forehead of our faults  
 To giue in euidence, what then, what rests,  
 Try what repentance can, what can it not,  
 Yet what can it, when one cannot repent?  
 O wretched state, O bosome blacke as death,  
 O limed soule, that struggling to be free,  
 Art more ingaged; helpe Angels make assay,  
 Bowe stubborne knees, and hart with strings of steale,  
 Be soft as sinnewes of the new borne babe,  
 All may be well.

*Enter Hamlet.*

*Ham.* Now might I doe it, but now a is a praying,  
 And now Ile doo't, and so a goes to heauen,  
 And so am I reuendge, that would be scand  
 A villaine kills my father, and for that,  
 I his sole sonne, doe this same villaine fend  
 To heauen.  
 Why, this is base and silly, not reuendge,  
 A tooke my father grossly full of bread,  
 Withall his crimes braod blowne, as flush as May,  
 And how his audit stands who knowes saue heauen,  
 But in our circumstance and course of thought,  
 Tis heauy with him: and am I then reuendged  
 To take him in the purging of his soule,  
 When he is fit and seasond for his passage?  
 No.  
 Vp sword, and knowe thou a more horrid hent,  
 When he is drunke, a sleepe, or in his rage,  
 Or in th' incestious pleasure of his bed,  
 At game a swearing, or about some act  
 That has no relish of saluation in't.

Then

## Prince of Denmarke.

Then trip him that his heels may kick at heauen,  
 And that his soule may be as damnd and black  
 As hell whereto it goes; my mother staies,  
 This phisick but prolongs thy sickly daies. *Exit.*  
*King.* My words fly vp, my thoughts remaine belowe  
 Words without thoughts neuer to heauen goe. *Exit.*

*Enter Gertrayd and Polonius.*

*Pol.* A will come strait, looke you lay home to him,  
 Tell him his prancks haue beene too braod to beare with,  
 And that your grace hath screend and stood betweene  
 Much heate and him, Ile silence me euen heere,  
 Pray you be round.

*Enter Hamlet.*

*Ger.* Ile wait you, feare me not,  
 With-drawe, I heare him comming.  
*Ham.* Now mother, what's the matter?  
*Ger.* Hamlet, thou hast thy father much offended.  
*Ham.* Mother, you haue my father much offended.  
*Ger.* Come, come, you answere with an idle tongue.  
*Ham.* Goe, goe, you question with a wicked tongue.  
*Ger.* Why how now Hamlet?  
*Ham.* What's the matter now?  
*Ger.* Haue you forgot me?  
*Ham.* No by the rood not so,  
 You are the Queene, your husbands brothers wife,  
 And would it were not so, you are my mother.  
*Ger.* Nay, then Ile set those to you that can speake.  
*Ham.* Come, come, and sit you downe, you shall not boudge,  
 You goe not till I set you vp a glasse  
 Where you may see the most part of you.  
*Ger.* What wilt thou doe, thou wilt not murther me,  
 Helpe how.  
*Pol.* What how helpe.  
*Ham.* How now, a Rat, dead for a Duckat, dead.  
*Pol.* O I am slaine.  
*Ger.* O me, what hast thou done?  
*Ham.* Nay I knowe not, is it the King?



### The Tragedie of Hamlet

*Ger.* O what a rash and bloody deede is this.

*Ham.* A bloody deede, almost as bad, good mother  
As kill a King, and marry with his brother.

*Ger.* As kill a King.

*Ham.* I Lady, it was my word.

Thou wretched, rash, intruding foole farwell,  
I tooke thee for thy better, take thy fortune,  
Thou find'st to be too busie is some danger,  
Leaue wringing of your hands, peace sit you downe,  
And let me wring your hart, for so I shall  
If it be made of penetrable stuffe,  
If damned custome haue not brafd it so,  
That it be prooffe and bulwark against sence.

*Ger.* What haue I done, that thou dar'st wagge thy tongue  
In noife so rude against me?

*Ham.* Such an act

That blurres the grace and blush of modesty,  
Cals vertue hippocrit, takes of the Rose  
From the faire forehead of an innocent loue,  
And sets a blister there, makes marriage vowes  
As false as dicers oathes, ô such a deede,  
As from the body of contraction plucks  
The very soule, and sweet religion makes  
A rapsedy of words; heauens face dooes glowe  
Ore this solidity and compound masse  
With heated visage, as against the doome  
Is thought sick at the act

*Quee.* Ay me, what act?

*Ham.* That roares so low'd, and thunders in the Index,  
Looke heere vpon this Picture, and on this,  
The counterfeit presentment of two brothers,  
See what a grace was seated on this browe,  
Hyperions curls, the front of Ioue himselfe,  
An eye like Mars, to threaten and command,  
A station like the herald Mercury,  
New lighted on a heaue, a kissing hill,  
A combination, and a forme indeede,  
Where euery God did seeme to set his seale  
To giue the world assurance of a man,

This

### Prince of Denmarke.

This was your husband, looke you now what followes.

Heere is your husband like a mildewed eare,  
Blasting his wholsome brother, haue you eyes,  
Could you on this faire mountaine leaue to feede,  
And batten on this Moore; ha, haue you eyes?  
You cannot call it loue, for at your age  
The heyday in the blood is tame, it's humble,  
And waits vpon the iudgement, and what iudgement  
Would step from this to this, sence sure youe haue  
Els could you not haue motion, but sure that sence  
Is appoplext, for madnesse would not erre  
Nor sence to extracie was nere so thral'd  
But it referu'd some quantity of choise  
To serue in such a difference, what deuill wast  
That thus hath cosund you at hodman blind;  
Eyes without feeling, feeling without sight,  
Eares without hands, or eyes, smelling fance all,  
Or but a sickly part of one true sence  
Could not so mope: ô shame where is thy blush?  
Rebellious hell,  
If thou canst mutine in a Matrons bones,  
To flaming youth let vertue be as wax  
And melt in her owne fire, proclaime no shame  
When the compulsiue ardure giues the charge,  
Since frost it selfe as actiuelly doth burne,  
And reason pardons will.

*Ger.* O Hamlet speake no more,  
Thou turnst my very eyes into my soule,  
And there I see such blacke and greued spots  
As will leaue there their tin'ct.

*Ham.* Nay but to liue  
In the ranck sweat of an inseeded bed  
Stewed in corruption, honying, and making loue  
Over the nasty stie.

*Ger.* O speake to me no more,  
These words like daggers enter in my eares,  
No more sweete Hamlet.

*Ham.* A murtherer and a villaine,  
A slaue that is not twentieth part the kyth



### The Tragedie of Hamlet

Of your precedent Lord, a vice of Kings,  
A cut-purse of the Empire and the rule,  
That from a shelve the precious Diadem stole  
And put it in his pocket.

Ger. No more.

*Enter Ghost.*

Ham. A King of shreds and patches,  
Saue me and houer ore me with your wings  
You heavenly gards: what would your gracious figure?

Ger. Alas hee's mad.

Ham. Doe you not come your tardy sonne to chide,  
That lap'st in time and passion lets goe by  
Th'important aeting of your dread command, ô say.

Ghost. Doe not forget, this visitation  
Is but to whet thy almost blunted purpose,  
But looke, amazement on thy mother sits,  
O step betweene her, and her fighting soule,  
Conceit in weakest bodies strongest workes,  
Speake to her Hamlet.

Ham. How is it with you Lady?

Ger. Alas how i'st with you?

That you doe bend your eye on vacancie,  
And with th'incorporall ayre doe hold discourse,  
Foorth at your eyes your spirits wildly peep,  
And as the sleeping souldiers in th'alarme,  
Your bedded haire like life in excrements  
Start vp and stand an end, ô gentle sonne  
Vpon the heat and flame of thy distemper  
Sprinkle coole patience, whereon doe you looke?

Ham. On him, on him, looke you how pale he glares,  
His forme and cause conioynd, preaching to stones  
Would make them capable, doe not looke vpon me,  
Least with this pittious action you conuert  
My stearne effects, then what I haue to doe  
Will want true cullour, teares perchance for blood.

Ger. To whom doe you speake this?

Ham. Doe you see nothing there?

Ger. Nothing at all, yet all that is I see.

Ham. Nor did you nothing heare?

Ger. No nothing but our selues.

### Prince of Denmarke.

Ham. Why looke you there, looke how it steales away,  
My father in his habit as he liued,  
Looke where he goes, euen now out at the portall. *Exit Ghost.*

Ger. This is the very coynage of your braine,  
This bodilesse creation extracie is very cunning in.

Ham. My pulse as yours doth temperatly keepe time,  
And makes as healthfull musicke, it is not madnesse  
That I haue vttered, bring me to the test,  
And the matter will reword, which madnesse  
Would gamble from, mother for loue of grace,  
Lay not that flattering vnction to your soule  
That not your trespassse but my madnesse speakes,  
It will but skin and filme the vlcrous place  
Whiles ranck corruption mining all within  
Infects vnseene, confesse your selfe to heauen,  
Repent what's past, auoyd what is to come,  
And doe not spread the compost on the weedes  
To make them rancker, forgiue me this my vertue.  
For in the fatnesse of these pursie times  
Vertue it selfe of vice must pardon beg,  
Yea curbe and wooe for leaue to doe him good.

Ger. O Hamlet thou hast cleft my hart in twaine.

Ham. O throwe away the worser part of it,  
And leaue the purer with the other halfe,  
Good night, but goe not to my Vncles bed,  
Asslune a vertue if you haue it not,  
That monster custome, who all sence doth eate  
Of habits deuill, is angell yet in this  
That to the vse of actions faire and good,  
Helikewise giues a frock or Liury  
That aptly is put on to refraine night,  
And that shall lend a kind of easines  
To the next abstinence, the next more easie:  
For vse almost can change the stamp of nature.  
And either the deuill, or throwe him out  
With wonderous potency: once more good night,  
And when you are desirous to be blest,  
He blessing beg of you, for this same Lord  
I doe repent; but heauen hath pleas'd it so

To



# The Tragedie of Hamlet

To punish me with this, and this with me,  
That I must be their scourge and minister,  
I will bestowe him and will answer well  
The death I gaue him; so againe good night  
I must be cruell only to be kinde,  
This bad beginnes, and worse remaines behind.  
One word more good Lady.

*Ger.* What shall I doe?

*Ham.* Not this by no meanes that I bid you doe,  
Let the blowt King temp't you againe to bed,  
Pinch wanton on your cheekke, call you his Mousse,  
And let him for a paire of reechie kisses,  
Or padling in your necke with his damn'd fingers.  
Make you to rouell all this matter out  
That I essentially am not in madnesse,  
But mad in craft, t'were good you let him knowe,  
For who that's but a Queene, faire, sober, wise,  
Would from a paddack, from a bat, a gib,  
Such deare concernings hide, who would doe so,  
No, in dispight of sence and secrecy,  
Vnpeg the basket on the houses top,  
Let the birds fly, and like the famous Ape,  
To try conclusions in the basket creepe,  
And breake your owne necke downe.

*Ger.* Be thou assur'd, if words be made of breath  
And breath of life, I haue no life to breath  
What thou hast sayd to me.

*Ham.* I must to England, you knowe that.

*Ger.* Alack I had forgot.

Tis so concluded on.

*Ham.* Ther's letters seald, and my two Schoolefellowes,  
Whom I will trust as I will Adders fang'd,  
They beare the mandar, they must sweep my way  
And marshall me to knauery: let it worke,  
For tis the sport to haue the enginer  
Hoist with his owne petar, an't shall goe hard  
But I will delue one yard belowe their mines,  
And blowe them at the Moone: o tis most sweete  
When in one line two crafts directly meete,

This

# Prince of Denmarke

This man shall set me packing,  
He lugges the guts into the neighbour roomes;  
Mother good night indeed, this Counsayler  
Is now most still, most secret, and most graue,  
Who was in life a most foolish prating knaue.  
Come sir, to draw toward an end with you.  
Good night mother. *Exit.*

*Enter King, and Queene, with Rosencrans  
and Gyldesterne*

*King.* There's matter in these sighes, these profound heaues,  
You must translate, tis fit we vnderstand them,  
Where is your sonne?

*Ger.* Bestow this place on vs a little while.

Ah mine owne Lord, what haue I scene to night?

*King.* What Gertrard, how dooes Hamlet?

*Ger.* Mad as the sea and wind when both contend  
Which is the mightier, in his lawlesse fit,  
Behind the Arras hearing some thing stirre,  
Whys out his Rapier, cryes a Rat, a Rat,  
And in this brainish apprehension kills  
The vnscene good old man.

*King.* O heauy deede!

It had beene so with vs had wee been there,  
His libertie is full of threates to all,  
To you your selfe, to vs, to euery one,  
Alas, how shall this bloody deede be answer'd?  
It will be layd to vs, whose prouidence  
Should haue kept short, restraind, and out of haune

This mad young man; but so much was our loue,  
We would not vnderstand what was most fit,  
But like the owner of a foule disease  
To keepe it from divulging, let it feede  
Euen on the pith of life: where is he gone?

*Ger.* To draw apart the body he hath kild,  
Ore whom, his very madnes like some ore  
Among a minerall of mettals base,

Shoves it selfe pure, a weepes for what is done.

*King.* O Gertrard, come away,

K.

The



# The Tragedie of Hamlet

The sunne no sooner shall the mountaines touch,  
But we will ship him hence, and this vile deede  
We must with all our Maiestie and skill *Enter Ros. & Guild.*  
Both countenance and excuse. Ho *Guyldensterne,*  
Friends both, goe ioyne you with some further ayde,  
*Hamlet* in madnes hath *Polonius* slaine,  
And from his mothers closet hath he dreg'd him,  
Goe seeke him out, speake fayre, and bring the body  
Into the Chappell; I pray you hast in this,  
Come *Gertrard*, wee'le call vp our wisest friends,  
And let them know both what we meane to doe  
And whats vntimely doone,  
Whose whisper ore the worlds dyameter,  
As leuell as the Cannon to his blannk,  
Transports his poyfined shot, may misse our Name,  
And hit the woundlesse ayre, ô come away,  
My soule is full of discord and dismay. *Exeunt.*

*Enter Hamlet, Rosencrans, and others.*

*Ham.* Safely stowd, but soft, what noyse, who calls on *Hamlet*?  
O heere they come.

*Ros.* What haue you doone my Lord with the dead body?

*Ham.* Compound it with dust whereto tis kin.

*Ros.* Tell vs where tis that we may take it thence,

And beare it to the Chappell.

*Ham.* Doe not beleuee it,

*Ros.* Beleuee what.

*Ham.* That I can keepe your counsaile & not mine owne, besides  
to be demaunded of a sponge, what re plycation should be made by  
the sonne of a King.

*Ros.* Take you me for a sponge my Lord?

*Ham.* I sir, that sokes vp the Kings countenance, his rewards, his  
authorities, but such Officers doe the King best seruice in the end, he  
keepe them like an apple in the corner of his jaw, first mouth'd to be  
last swallowed, when hee needs what you haue gleand, it is but quee-  
sing you, and sponge you shall be dry againe.

*Ros.* I vnderstand you not my Lord.

*Ham.* I am glad of it, a knauish speech strepes in a foolish care.

*Ros.* My Lord, you must tell vs where the body is, and goe with vs  
to the King.

*Hamlet.*

# Prince of Denmarke.

*Ham.* The body is with the King, but the King is not with the  
body. The King is a thing.

*Guy.* A thing my Lord.

*Ham.* Of nothing, bring me to him? *Exeunt.*

*Enter King, and two or three.*

*King.* I haue sent to seeke him, and to find the body,  
How dangerous is it that this man goes loose,  
Yet must not we put the strong Law on him,  
Hee's lou'd of the distracted multitude,  
VWho like not in their iudgement, but theyr eyes,  
And where tis so, th'offenders scourge is wayed  
But neuer the offence: to beare all smooth and euen,  
This suddaine sending him away must seeme  
Deliberate pause, diseases desperat growne,  
By desperat applyance are relieu'd  
Or not at all.

*Enter Rosencrans and all the rest.*

*King.* How now, what hath befallne?

*Ros.* Where the dead body is bestowd my Lord  
VVe cannot get from him.

*King.* But where is hee?

*Ros.* Without my lord, guarded to know your pleasure.

*King.* Bring him before vs.

*Ros.* How, bring in the Lord.

*King.* Now *Hamlet*, where's *Polonius*?

*Ham.* At supper.

*King.* At supper, where.

*Ham.* Not where he eates, but where a is eaten, a certaine conua-  
cation of politike wormes are een at him: your worme is your onely  
Emperour for dyet, we fat all creatures els. to fat vs, and wee fat our  
selues for maggots, your fat King and your leane begger is but varia-  
ble seruice, two dishes but to one table, that's the end.

*King.* Alas, alas.

*Ham.* A man may fish with the worme that hath eate of a King, &  
eate of the fish that hath fedde of that worme.

*King.* *King.* VVhat doost thou meane by this?

*Ham.* Nothing but to shew you how a King may goe a progresse  
through



# The Tragedie of Hamlet

through the guts of a begger.

King. Where is Polonius?

Ham. In heauen, send thether to see, if your messenger finde him not thre, seeke him i<sup>th</sup> other place your selfe, but if indeed you find him not within this month, you shall nose him as you goe vp the stayres into the Lobby.

King. Goe seeke him there.

Ham. A will stay till you come.

King. Hamlet this deede for thine especiall safety Which we do tender, as we deerely grieue For that which thou hast done, must send thee hence. Therefore prepare thy selfe, The Barck is ready, and the wind at helpe, Th'associats tend, and euery thing is bent For England.

Ham. For England.

King. I Hamlet.

Ham. Good.

King. So is it if thou knew'st our purposes.

Ham. I see a Cherub that sees the, but come for England, Farewell deere Mother.

King. Thy louing Father Hamlet.

Ham. My mother, Father and Mother is man and wife, Man and wife is one flesh, so my mother: Come for England. Exit.

King. Follow him at foote,

Tempt him with speede aboard,

Delay it not, Ile haue him hence to night.

Away, for euery thing is seald and done

That els leanes on th'affayre, pray you make hast,

And England, if my loue thou hold'st at ought,

As my great power thereof may giue thee fence,

Since yet thy Cicatrice lookes raw and red,

After the Danish sword, and thy free awe

Payes homage to vs, thou may'st not coldly see

Our soueraigne proceesse, which imports at full

By Letters congruing to that effect

The present death of Hamlet, doe it England,

For like the Heclaue in my blood he rages,

And

# Prince of Denmarke.

And thou must cure me; till I know tis done,  
How ere my haps, my ioyes will nere begin. Exit.

Enter Fortinbrasse with his Army ouer the Stage.

Fortin. Goe Captaine, from me greet the Danish King,  
Tell him, that by his lycence Fortinbrasse

Craues the conueyance of a promised march

Ouer his kingdome, you know the randeuous,

If that his Maiestie would ought with vs,

We shall expresse our dutie in his eye,

And let him know so.

Cap. I will doo't my Lord.

For. Goe softly on.

Enter Hamlet, Rosencrans, &c.

Ham. Good sir whose powers are these?

Cap. They are of Norway sir.

Ham. How purposed sir I pray you?

Cap. Against some part of Poland.

Ham. Who commaunds them sir?

Cap. The Nephew to old Norway, Fortenbrasse.

Ham. Goes it against the maine of Poland sir,

Or for some frontire?

Cap. Truly to speake, and with no addition,

We goe to gaine a little patch of ground

That hath in it no profit but the name

To paye five duckets, five I would not farme it;

Nor will it yeeld to Norway or the Pole

A rancker rate, should it be sold in fee.

Ham. Why then the Pollacke neuer will defend it.

Cap. Yes, it is already garisond.

Ham. Two thousand foules, & twenty thousand duckets

VWill not debate the question of this straw,

This is th'Impostume of much wealth and peace,

That inward breakes, and shoves no cause without

Why the man dies. I humbly thanke you sir.

Cap. God buy you sir.

Ros. Wil't please you goe my Lord?

Ham. Ile be with you straight, goe a little before.

How all occasions doe informe against me,

K 3

And



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

And spur my dull reuenge. What is a man  
If his chiefe good and market of his time  
Be but to sleepe and feede, a beast, no more:  
Sure he that made vs with such large discourse  
Looking before and after, gaue vs not  
That capabilitie and god-like reason  
To fust in vs vnvsd, now whether it be  
Bestiall obliuion, or some crauen scruple  
Of thinking too precisely on th'euent,  
A thought which quarterd hath but one part wisdom,  
And euer three parts coward, I doe not know  
Why yet I liue to say this thing's to doe,  
Sith I haue cause, and will, and strength, and meanes  
To doo't; examples grosse as earth exhort me,  
Witnes this Army of such masse and charge,  
Led by a delicate and tender Prince,  
Whose spirit with diuine ambition puffed,  
Makes mouthes at the invisible euent,  
Exposing what is mortall, and vnure,  
To all that fortune, death, and danger dare,  
Euen for an Egge-shell. Rightly to be great,  
Is not to stirre without great argument,  
But greatly to find quarrell in a straw  
When honour's at the stake, how stand I then  
That haue a father kild, a mother staine,  
Excytements of my reason, and my blood,  
And let all sleepe, while to my shame I see  
The imminent death of twenty thousand men,  
That for a fantasie and trick of fame  
Goe to their graues like beds, fight for a ploe  
Whereon the numbers cannot try the cause,  
Which is not tombe enough and continent  
To hide the slaine, o from this time forth,  
My thoughts be bloody, or be nothing worth.

*Enter Horatio, Gertrard, and a Gentleman.*

*Quee.* I will not speake with her.

*Gent.* Shee is importunat,  
Indeede distract, her moode will needes be pitied.

## Prince of Denmarke.

*Quee.* What would she haue?

*Gent.* She speakes much of her father, sayes she heares  
There's tricks i'th world, and hems, and beates her hart,  
Spurnes enuiously at strawes, speakes things in doubt  
That carry but halfe sence, her speech is nothing,  
Yet the vnshaped vse of it doth moue  
The hearers to collection, they yawne at it,  
And botch the words vp fit to theyr owne thoughts,  
Which as her wincks, and nods, and gestures yeeld them,  
Indeede would make one thinke there might be thought  
Though nothing sure, yet much vnhappily.

*Hora.* Twere good she were spoken with, for shee may strew  
Dangerous coniectures in ill breeding mindes,  
Let her come in.

*Enter Ophelia.*

*Quee.* To my sicke soule, as sinnes true nature is,  
Each toy seemes prologue to some great amisse,  
So full of artlesse ieaousie is guilt,  
It spills it selfe, in fearing to be spilt.

*Oph.* Where is the beaurious Maiestie of Denmarke?

*Quee.* How now Ophelia?

*Oph.* How should I your true loue know from another one,  
By his cockle hat and staffe, and his Sendall shoone.

*Quee.* Alas sweet Lady, what imports this song?

*Oph.* Say you, nay pray you marke,  
He is dead & gone Lady, he is dead and gone,  
At his head a grasgreene turph, at his heeles a stone.  
O ho.

*Quee.* Nay but Ophelia.

*Oph.* Pray you marke. White his shrowd as the mountaine snow.

*Enter King.*

*Quee.* Alas looke heere my Lord.

*Oph.* Larded all with sweet flowers,  
Which beweept to the ground did not go  
With true loue showers.

*King.* How doe you pretty Lady?

*Oph.* Well good dild you, they say the Owle was a Bakers daugh-  
ter, Lord we know what we are, but know not what we may be.  
God be at your table.

*King.*



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

*King.* Conceit vpon her Father.

*Oph.* Pray lets haue no words of this, but when they aske you what it meanes, say you this.

To morrow is S. Valentines day, *Song.*

All in the morning betime,

And I a mayde at your window

To be your Valentine.

Then vp he rose, and dond his clofe, and dupt the chamber doore,  
Let in the maide, that out a maide, neuer departed more.

*King.* Pretty *Ophelia*.

*Oph.* Indcede without an oath Ile make an end on't,

By gis and by Saint Charitie,

alack and fie for shame,

Young men will doo't if they come too't,

by Cock they are too blame.

Quoth she, Before you tumbled me, you promised me to wed,

(He answers.) So would I a done by yonder sunne

And thou hadst not come to my bed.

*King.* How long hath she beene thus?

*Oph.* I hope all will be well, we must be patient, but I cannot chuse but weepe to thinke they would lay him i'th cold ground, my brother shall know of it, and so I thanke you for your good counsaile. Come my Coach, God night Ladies, god night. Sweet Ladyes god night, god night.

*King.* Follow her close, giue her good watch I pray you.

O this is the poyson of deepe griefe, it springs all from her Fathers

death, and now behold, ô *Gertrard*, *Gertrard*,

When sorrowes come, they come not single spies,

But in battalians: first her Father slaine,

Next, your sonne gone, and he most violent Author

Of his owne iust remoue, the people muddied

Thick and vnwholsome in thoughts, and whispers

For good *Polonius* death: and we haue done but greenly

In hugger mugger to inter him: poore *Ophelia*

Deuided from herselfe, and her faire iudgement,

VVithout the which we are pictures, or mere beasts,

Last, and as much contayning as all these,

Her brother is in secret come from Fraunce,

Feeds on this wonder, keepest himselfe in clowdes,

And

## Prince of Denmarke.

And wants not buzzers to infect his eare  
With pestilent speeches of his fathers death,  
Wherein necessity of matter beggerd,  
Will nothing stick our person to arraigne  
In eare and eare: ô my deare *Gertrard*, this  
Like to a murdring peece in many places  
Giues me superfluous death.

*A noise within.*

*Enter a Messenger.*

*King.* Attend, where is my Swissers, let them guard the doore,  
What is the matter?

*Messen.* Saue your selfe my Lord.

The Ocean ouer-peering of his list

Eates not the flats with more impitious hast

Then young *Laertes* in a riotous head

Ore beares your Officres: the rabble call him Lord,

And as the world were now but to beginne,

Antiquity forgot, custome not knowne,

The ratifiers and props of euery word,

The cry choose we, *Laertes* shall be King,

Caps, hands, and tongues applau'd it to the clouds,

*Laertes* shall be King, *Laertes* King.

*Quee.* How cheerefully on the false traile they cry. *(A noise within.)*

O this is counter you false Danish dogges.

*Enter Laertes with others.*

*King.* The doores are broke.

*Laer.* Where is this King? sirs stand you all without.

*All.* No lets come in.

*Laer.* I pray you giue me leaue.

*All.* VVe will, we will.

*Laer.* I thanke you, keepe the doore, ô thou vile King,  
Giue me my father.

*Quee.* Calmely good *Laertes*.

*Laer.* That drop of blood thats calme proclames me Bastard,  
Cries cuckold to my father, brands the Harlot  
Euen heere betweene the chaste vnsmirched browe  
Of my true mother.

*King.* VVhat is the cause *Laertes*  
That thy rebellion lookes so gyant like?

L.

Let



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

Let him goe *Gertrard*, doe not feare our person,  
There's such diuinitie doth hedge a King,  
That treason can but peepe to what it would,  
A little of his will, tell me *Laertes*.  
Why thou art thus incens'd, let him goe *Gertrard*.  
Speake man.

*Laer.* Where is my father?

*King.* Dead.

*Quee.* But not by him.

*King.* Let him demaund his fill.

*Laer.* How came he dead, I'll not be iugled with,  
To hell allegiance, vows to the blackest deuill,  
Conscience and grace, to the profoundest pit  
I dare damnation, to this poynt I stand,  
That both the worlds I giue to negligence,  
Let come what comes, onely I'll be reueng'd  
Most throughly for my father.

*King.* Who shall stay you?

*Laer.* My will, nor all the worlds:  
And for my meanes I'll husband them so well,  
They shall goe farre with little.

*King.* Good *Laertes*, if you desire to know the certainty  
Of your deere Father, I'll writ in your reuenge,  
That soopstake, you will draw both friend and foe  
Winner and looser.

*Laer.* None but his enemies,

*King.* Will you know them then?

*Laer.* To his good friends thus wide I'll ope my armes,  
And like the kind life-rendring Pelican,  
Repast them with my blood.

*King.* Why now you speake  
Like a good child, and a true Gentleman.  
That I am guiltlesse of your fathers death,  
And am most sencibly in griefe for it,  
It shall as leuell to your iudgement peare  
As day dooes to your eye.

*A noyse within.*

*Enter Ophelia.*

*Laer.* Let her come in.  
How now, what noyse is that?

## Prince of Denmarke.

O heate, dry vp my braines, teares seauen times sale  
Burne out the sence and vertue of mine eye,  
By heauen thy madnes shall be payd with weighe,  
Tell our scale turne the beame, O Rose of May,  
Deere mayd, kind sister, sweet *Ophelia*,  
O heauens, is't possible a young maids wits  
Should be as mortall as a poore mans life.

*Oph.* They bore him bare-faste on the Beere,  
And in his graue rain'd many a teare,  
Fare you well my Doue.

*Song.*

*Laer.* Hadst thou thy wits, and didst perswade reuenge  
It could not moue thus.

*Oph.* You must sing a downe a downe,  
And you call him a downe a. O how the wheele becomes it,  
It is the false Steward that stole his Masters daughter.

*Laer.* This nothing's more then matter.

*Oph.* There's Rosemary, thats for remembrance, pray you loue re-  
member, and there is Pancies, thats for thoughts.

*Laer.* A document in madnes, thoughts and remembrance fitted.  
*Oph.* There's Fennill for you, and Colembines, there's Rewe for  
you, & heere's some for me, we may call it herbe of Grace a Sondaies,  
you may weare your Rewe with a difference, there's a Daisie. I would  
giue you some Violets, but they witherd all when my Father dyed,  
they say a made a good end.

For bonny sweet Robin is all my ioy.

*Laer.* Thought and afflictions, passion, hell it selfe  
Sheturnes to fauour and to prettines.

*Song.*

*Oph.* And wil a not come againe,  
And wil a not come againe,  
No, no, he is dead, goe to thy death bed,  
He neuer will come againe.

His beard was as white as snow,

Flaxen was his pole,

He is gone, he is gone, and we cast away mone,  
God a mercy on his soule, and of all Christians soules,  
God buy you.

*Laer.* Doe you this O God.

*King.* *Laertes*, I must commune with your griefe,  
Or you deny me right, goe but apart,

Lz

Make



### The Tragedie of Hamlet

Make choice of whom your wisest friends you will,  
And they shall heare and iudge twixt you and me,  
If by direct, or by colaturall hand  
They find vs toucht, we will our kingdome giue,  
Our crowne, our life, and all that we call ours  
To you in satisfaction; but if not,  
Be you content to lend your patience to vs,  
And we shall ioyntly labour with your soule  
To giue it due content.

*Laer.* Let this be so.

His meanes of death, his obscure funerall,  
No trophe sword, nor hatchment ore his bones,  
No noble right, nor formall ostentation,  
Cry to be heard as twere from heauen to earth,  
That I must call't in question.

*King.* So you shall,

And where th'offence is, let the great axe fall.

I pray you goe with me. *Exeunt.*

*Enter Horatio and others.*

*Hor.* VVhat are they that would speake with me?

*Gent.* Sea-faring men sir, they say they haue Letters for you.

*Hor.* Let them come in.

I doe not know from what part of the world

I should be greeted. If not from Lord Hamlet.

*Enter Saylers.*

*Say.* God blesse you sir.

*Hor.* Let him blesse thee to.

*Say.* A shall sir and please him, there's a Letter for you sir, it came  
frō th'Embassador that was bound for *England*, if your name be *Ho-*  
*ratio*, as I am let to know it is.

*Hor.* *Horatio*, when thou shalt haue ouer-lookt this, giue these fel-  
lowes some meanes to the King, they haue Letters for him: Ere wee  
were two daies old at Sea, a Pyrat of very warlike appointment gaue  
vs chase, finding our selues too slow of saile, wee put on a compelled  
valour, and in the grapple I boarded them, on the instant they got  
cleere of our shyp, so I alone became their prisoner, they haue dealt  
with me like thieues of mercie, but they knew what they did, I am to  
doe a turne for them, let the King haue the Letters I haue sent, and  
repayre thou to me with as much speede as thou wouldst flie death,  
I haue wordes to speake in thine eare will make thee dumbe, yet are they

### Prince of Denmarke.

they much too light for the bord of the matter, these good fellowes  
will bring thee where I am, *Rosencrans* and *Guydensterne* hold their  
course for *England*, of them I haue much to tell thee, farewell.  
*So that thou knowest thine Hamlet.*

*Hor.* Come I will you way for these your letters,  
And doo't the speedier that you may direct me  
To him from whom you brought them. *Exeunt.*

*Enter King and Laertes.*

*King.* Now must your conscience my acquittance seale,  
And you must put me in your hart for friend,  
Sith you haue heard and with a knowing eare,  
That he which hath your noble father slaine  
Pursued my life.

*Laer.* It well appeares: but tell mee  
Why you proceede not against these feates  
So criminall and so capitall in nature,  
As by your safetie, greatnes, wisdom, all things els  
You mainely were stirr'd vp.

*King.* O for two speciall reasons  
Which may to you perhaps seeme much vnfinow'd,  
But yet to mee thar strong, the Queene his mother  
Lives almost by his lookes, and for my selfe,  
My vertue or my plague, be it eyther which,  
She is so conclud to my life and soule,  
That as the starre mooues not but in his sphere  
I could not but by her, the other motiue,  
Why to a publique count I might not goe,  
Is the great loue the generall gender beare him,  
Who dipping all his faults in their affection,  
Worke like the spring that turneth wood to stone,  
Conuert his Giues to graces, so that my arrowes  
Too slightly tymberd for so loued Arm'd,  
Would haue reuerted to my bowe againe,  
But not where I haue aym'd them.

*Laer.* And so haue I a noble father lost,  
A sister driuen into desprat termes,  
Whose worth, if prayses may goe backe againe



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

Stood challenger on mount of all the age  
For her perfections, but my reuenge will come.

*King.* Breake not your sleepes for that, you must not thinke  
That we are made of stufte so flat and dull,  
That we can let our beard be shooke with danger,  
And thinke it pastime, you shortly shall heare more,  
I loued your father, and we loue our selfe,  
And that I hope will teach you to imagine.

*Enter a Messenger with Letters.*

*Messen.* These to your Maestie, this to the Queene;

*King.* From Hamlet, who brought them?

*Mess.* Saylers my Lord they say, I saw them not,  
They were giuen me by *Clandio*, he receiued them  
Of him that brought them.

*King.* *Laertes* you shall heare them: leaue vs.  
High and mighty, you shall know I am set naked on your kingdom,  
to morrow shall I begge leaue to see your kingly eyes, when I shal first  
asking you pardon, there-vnto recount the occasion of my suddaine  
returne.

*King.* What should this meane, are all the rest come backe,  
Or is it some abuse, and no such thing?

*Laer.* Know you the hand?

*King.* Tis *Hamlets* character. Naked,  
And in a postscript heere he sayes alone,  
Can you deuise me?

*Laer.* I am lost in it my Lord, but let him come,  
It warms the very sicknes in my hart  
That I liue and tell him to his teeth  
Thus didst thou.

*King.* If it be so *Laertes*,  
As how should it be so, how otherwise,  
Will you be rul'd by me?

*Laer.* I my Lord, so you will not ore rule me to a peace.

*King.* To thine owne peace, if he be now returned  
As the *King* at his voyage, and that he meanes  
No more to vndertake it, I will worke him  
To an exployt, now ripe in my deuise,  
Vnder the which he shall not choose but fall:

And

## Prince of Denmarke.

And for his death no wind of blame shall breathe,  
But euen his Mother shall vncharge the practise,  
And call it accedent.

*Laer.* My Lord I will be rul'd,  
The rather if you could deuise it so  
That I might be the organ.

*King.* It falls right,  
You haue beene talkt of since your trauaile much,  
And that in *Hamlets* hearing, for a qualitie  
Wherein they say you shine, your summe of parts  
Did not together plucke such enuie from him  
As did that one, and that in my regard  
Of the vnworthiest sledge.

*Laer.* What part is that my Lord?

*King.* A very ribaud in the cap of youth,  
Yet needfull to, for youth no lesse becomes  
The light and carelesse liuery that it weares  
Then settled age, his fables, and his weedes  
Importing health and grauenes; two months since  
Heere was a gentleman of *Normandy*,  
I haue seene my selfe, and seru'd against the French,  
And they can well on horsebacke, but this gallant  
Had witch-craft in't, he grew vnto his seate,  
And to such wondrous dooing brought his horse,  
As had he beene incorp'st, and demy natur'd  
With the braue beast, so farre he topt me thought,  
That I in forgerie of shapes and tricks  
Come short of what he did.

*Laer.* A Norman wast?

*King.* A Norman.

*Laer.* Vppon my life *Lamord*.

*King.* The very same.

*Laer.* I know him well, he is the brooch indeed  
And Iem of all the Nation.

*King.* He made confession of you,  
And gaue you such a masterly report  
For art and exercise in your defence,  
And for your Rapier most especiall,  
That he cride out t'would be a sight indeed

If



# The Tragedie of Hamlet

If one could match you; the Scrimures of their nation  
He swore had neither motion, guard, nor eye,  
If you opposd them; sir this report of his  
Did Hamlet so enuenom with his enuy,  
That he could nothing doe but wish and beg  
Your sodaine comming ore to play with you.  
Now out of this.

*Laer.* What out of this my Lord?

*King.* Laertes was your father deare to you?

Or are you like the painting of a sorrowe,  
A face without a hart?

*Laer.* Why aske you this?

*King.* Not that I thinke you did not loue your father,

But that I knowe, loue is begunne by time,

And that I see in passages of prooffe;

Time qualifies the sparke and fire of it;

There lues within the very flame of loue

A kind of weeke or snufe that will abate it,

And nothing is at a like goodnes still,

For goodnes growing to a plurisie,

Dies in his owne too much, that we would doe

We should doe when we would: for this would changes,

And hath abatements and delayes as many,

As there are tongues, are hands, are atcedents,

And then this should is like a spend thirfts sigh,

That hurts by easing; but to the quick of th' vicer,

*Hamlet* comes back, what would you vnder take

To shoue your selfe indeede your fathers sonne

More then in words?

*Laer.* To cut his throat i'th Church.

*King.* No place indeede should murther sanctuarise,

Reuendge should haue no bounds: but good *Laertes*

Will you doe this, keepe close within your chamber,

*Hamlet* return'd, shall knowe you are come home,

Weele put on those shall praise your excellence,

And set a double varnish on the fame

The french man gaue you, bring you in fine together

And wager ore your heads; he being remisse,

Most generous, and free from all contriuing,

Will

# Prince of Denmarke.

Will not peruse the foyles, so that with ease,  
Or with a little shuffling, you may choose  
A sword vnated, and in a pace of practise  
Requite him for your Father.

*Laer.* I will doo't,

And for purpose, Ile annoynt my sword.

I bought an vnction of a Mountibanck

So mortall, that but dippe a knife in it,

Where it drawes blood, no Cataplasme so rare,

Collected from all simples that haue vertue

Vnder the Moone, can saue the thing from death

That is but scratcht withall, Ile tutch my point

With this contagion, that if I gall him slightly, it may be death.

*King.* Lets further thinke of this.

Wey what conuenience both of time and meanes

May fit vs to our shape if this should fayle,

And that our drift looke through our bad performance,

Twere better not assayd, therefore this proiect,

Should haue a back or second that might hold

If this did blast in prooffe; soft let me see,

Wee'le make a solemne wager on your cunnings,

I hate, when in your motion you are hore and dry,

As make your bouts more violent to that end,

And that he calls for drinke, Ile haue prefard him

A Challice for the nonce, whereon but sipping,

If he by chance escape your venom'd stuck,

Our purpose may hold there; but stay, what noyse?

*Enter Queene.*

*Quee.* One woe doth tread vpon anothers heele,  
So fast they follow; your Sisters drown'd *Laertes*.

*Laer.* Drown'd, o where?

*Quee.* There is a Willow growes ascaunt the Brooke,

That shoues his horry leaues in the glassy streame,

Therewith fantastique garlands did the make

Of Crowflowers, Nettles, Daises, and long Purples

That liberall Shepheards giue a grosser name,

But our cull-cold maydes doe dead mens fingers call them.

There on the pendant boughes her cronet weedes

M.

Clambring



# The Tragedie of Hamlet

Clambring to hang, an enuious fluer broke,  
When downe her weedy trophies and her selfe  
Fell in the weeping Brooke, her clothes spred wide,  
And Marmaide like awhile they bore her vp,  
Which time she chaunted snatches of old laudes,  
As one incapable of her owne distresse,  
Or like a creature native and indewed  
Vnto that element, but long it could not be  
Till that her garments heauy with theyr drinke,  
Pul'd the poore wretch from her melodious lay  
To muddy death.

*Laer.* Alas, then she is drown'd.

*Quee.* Drown'd, drown'd.

*Laer.* Too much of water hast thou poore Ophelia,  
And therefore I forbid my teares; but yet  
It is our trick, nature her custome holds,  
Let shame say what it will, when these are gone,  
The woman will be out. Adiew my Lord,  
I haue a speech a fire that faine would blase,  
But that this folly drownes it. *Exit.*

*King.* Let's follow Gertrard,

How much I had to doe to calme his rage,  
Now feare I this will giue it start againe,  
Therefore lets follow. *Exeunt.*

*Enter two Clownes.*

*Clowne.* Is shee to be buried in Christian buriall, when she wilfully  
seekes her owne saluation?

*Other.* I tell thee she is, therefore make her graue straight, the crow-  
ner hath fate on her, and finds it Christian buriall.

*Clowne.* How can that be, vnlesse she drown'd herselfe in her owne  
defence.

*Other.* Why tis found so.

*Clowne.* It must be so offended, it cannot be els, for heere lyes the  
poynt, if I drowne my selfe wittingly, it argues an act, & an act hath  
three branches, it is to act, to doe, to performe, or all; she drown'd her  
selfe wittingly.

*Other.* Nay, but heare you good man deliuer.

*Clowne.* Giue mee leaue, here lyes the water, good, here stands the  
man,

# Prince of Denmarke.

man, good, if the man goe to this water & drowne himselfe, it is will  
he, nill he, he goes, marke you that, but if the water come to him, &  
drowne him, he drownes not himselfe, argall, he that is not guilty of  
his owne death, shortens not his owne life.

*Other.* But is this law?

*Clowne.* I marry i't, Crowners quest law.

*Other.* Will you ha the truth an't, if this had not beene a gentlewo-  
man, she should haue been buried out a christian buriall.

*Clowne.* Why there thou sayst, and the more pittie that great folke  
should haue countnaunce in this world to drowne or hang theselues,  
more then they euen Christen: Come my spade, there is no aunci-  
ent gentlemen but Gardners, Ditchers, and Grauemakers, they hold  
vp Adams profession.

*Other.* Was he a gentleman?

*Clowne.* A was the first that euer bore Armes.  
He put another question to thee, if thou answerest me not to the pur-  
pose, confesse thy selfe.

*Other.* Goe to.

*Clow.* What is he that builds stronger then eyther the Mason, the  
Shypwright, or the Carpenter.

*Other.* The gallows maker, for that out-lives a thousand tenants.

*Clowne.* I like thy wit well in good fayth, the gallows dooes well,  
but howe dooes it well? It dooes well to those that do ill, nowe thou  
dooest ill to say the gallows is built stronger then the Church, argall,  
the gallows may doo well to thee. Too't againe, come.

*Other.* V Who buildes stronger then a Mason, a Shipwright, or a  
Carpenter.

*Clowne.* I, tell me that and vnyoke.

*Other.* Marry now I can tell.

*Clowne.* Too't.

*Other.* Masse I cannot tell.

*Clow.* Cudgell thy braines no more about it, for your dull asse wil  
not mend his pace with beating, and when you are askt this question  
next, say a graue-maker, the houses hee makes lasts till Doomesday.  
Goe get thee in, and fetch mee a soope of liquer.

*Song.*  
In youth when I did loue did I

Me thought it was very sweet

To contract o the time for a my behoue,

O me thought there a was nothing a meet.

M 2.

*Enter*



# The Tragedie of Hamlet

*Enter Hamlet and Horatio.*

*Ham.* Has this fellowe no feeling of his busines? a sings in graue-making.

*Hora.* Custome hath made it in him a propertie of easines.

*Ham.* Tis een so, the hand of little imploiment hath the dintier sence

*Clow.* But age with his stealing steppes *Song.*

hath clawed me in his clutch,

And hath shipped me into the land,  
as if I had neuer been such.

*Ham.* That skull had a tongue in it, and could sing once; how the knaue iowles it to the ground, as if twere Caines iawbone, that did the first murder, this might be the pate of a politician, which this asse now ore-reaches; one that would circumuent God, might it not?

*Hora.* It might my Lord.

*Ham.* Or of a Courtier, which could say good morrow sweet lord, how doost thou sweet lord? This might be my Lord such a one, that praised my lord such a ones horse when a went to beg it, might it not?

*Hor.* I my Lord.

*Ham.* Why een so, & now my Lady wormes Choples, & knockt about the massene with a Sextens spade; heere's fine reuolution and we had the trick to see't, did these bones cost no more the breeding, but to play at loggits with them: mine ake to thinke on't.

*Clow.* A pickax and a spade a spade, *Song.*

for and a shrowding sheet,

O a pit of Clay for to be made  
for such a guest is meet.

*Ham.* There's another, why may not that be the skull of a Lawyer, where be his quiddities now, his quillites, his cafes, his tenurs, and his tricks? why dooes he suffer this madde knaue now to knocke him about the sconce with a durrie shouell, and will not tell him of his affliction of battery, hum, this fellowe might be in's time a great buyer of Land, with his Statuts, his recognisances, his fines, his double vouchers, his recoueries, to haue his fine pate full of fine durrt; will vouchers vouch him no more of his purchases & doubles then the length and breadth of a payre of Indentures? The very conueyances of his Lands will scarcely lye in this box, & must th'inheritor himselfe haue no more, ha.

*Hora.* Not a iot more my Lord.

*Ham.* Is not Parchment made of sheepe-skinnes?

*Hora.*

# Prince of Denmarke.

*Hora.* I my Lord, and of Calues-skinnes to.

*Ham.* They are Sheepe and Calues which seeke out assurance in that, I wil speak to this fellow. Whose graue's this sirra?

*Clow.* Mine sir, or a pit of clay for to be made.

*Ham.* I thinke it be thine indeede, for thou lyest in't.

*Clow.* You lie out ont sir, and therefore tis not yours; for my part I doe not lie in't, yet it is mine.

*Ham.* Thou doost lie in't to be in't & say it is thine, tis for the dead, not for the quicke, therefore thou lyest.

*Clow.* Tis a quicke lye sir, twill away againe from me to you.

*Ham.* What inan doost thou digge it for?

*Clow.* For no man sir.

*Ham.* What woman then?

*Clow.* For none neither.

*Ham.* Who is to be buried in't?

*Clow.* One that was a woman sir, but rest her soule shee's dead.

*Ham.* How absolute the knaue is, we must speake by the card, or equiuocation will vndoo vs. By the Lord *Horatio*, this three yeeres I haue tooke note of it, the age is growne so picked, that the toe of the peasant comes so neere the heele of the Courtier he galls his kybe. How long hast thou been Graue-maker?

*Clow.* Of the dayes th' yere I came too't that day that our last king *Hamlet* ouercame *Fortenbrasse*.

*Ham.* How long is that since?

*Clow.* Cannot you tell that? euery foole can tell that, it was that very day that young *Hamlet* was borne: hee that is mad and sent into England.

*Ham.* I marry, why was he sent into England?

*Clow.* Why because a was mad: a shall recouer his wits there, or if a doo not, tis no great matter there.

*Ham.* Why?

*Clow.* Twill not be seene in him there, there the men are as mad (as hee.)

*Ham.* How came he mad?

*Clow.* Very strangely they say.

*Ham.* How strangely?

*Clow.* Fayth eene with loosing his wits.

*Ham.* Vpon what ground?

*Clow.* Why heere in Denmarke: I haue been Sexten heere man and boy thirty yeeres.

M 3

*Ham.*



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

*Ham.* How long will a man lie i'th earth ere he rot?

*Clow.* Fayth if a be not rotten before a die, as we haue many poe-  
kie corfes, that will scarce hold the laying in, a will last you some eyght  
yeere, or nine yeere. A Tanner will last you nine yeere.

*Ham.* Why he more then another?

*Clow.* Why sir, his hide is so tand with his trade, that a will keepe  
out water a great while; & your water is a fore decayer of your whor-  
son dead body, heer's a skull now hath lyen you i'th earth 23. yeeres.

*Ham.* Whose was it?

*Clow.* A whorson mad fellowes it was, whose do you think it was?

*Ham.* Nay I know not.

*Clow.* A pestilence on him for a madde rogue, a poured a flagon of  
Renish on my head once; this same skull sir, was sir *Yoricke* skull, the  
Kings Iester.

*Ham.* This?

*Clow.* Een that.

*Ham.* Alas poore *Yoricke*, I knew him *Horatio*, a fellow of infinite  
iest, of most excellent fancie, hee hath bore me on his backe a thou-  
sand times, and now how abhorred in my imagination it is: my gorge  
rises at it. Heere hung those lypes that I haue kist I know not howe  
oft, where be your gibes now? your gamboles, your songs, your fla-  
shes of merriment, that were wont to set the table on a roare, not one  
now to mocke your owne grinning, quite chopfalne. Now get you  
to my Ladies table, & tell her, let her paint an inch thicke, to this fa-  
uour she must come, make her laugh at that.

*Prethee Horatio tell me one thing.*

*Hora.* What's that my Lord?

*Ham.* Dooft thou thinke *Alexander* lookt a this fashion i'th earth?

*Hora.* Een so.

*Ham.* And smelt so pah.

*Hora.* Een so my Lord.

*Ham.* To what base vses wee may returne *Horatio*? Why may not  
imagination trace the noble dust of *Alexander*, till a find it stopping  
a bung-hole?

*Hora.* Fwere to consider too curiously to consider so.

*Ham.* No faith, not a iot, but to follow him thether with modestly  
enough, and likelyhood to leade it. *Alexander* dyed, *Alexander* was  
buried, *Alexander* returneth to dust, the dust is earth, of earth vvee  
make Lome, & why of that Lome whereto he was conuerted, might  
they

## Prince of Denmarke.

they not stoppe a Beare-barrell?

Imperious *Cesar* dead, and turn'd to Clay,

Might stoppe a hole, to keepe the wind away.

O that that earth which kept the world in awe,

Should patch a wall & expell the waters flaw.

But soft; but soft awhile, here comes the King,

The Queene, the Courtiers, who is this they follow?

And with such maimed rites? this doth betoken,

The corse they follow, did with desprat hand

Foredoe it owne life, twas of some estate,

Couch we a while and marke.

*Laer.* What Ceremonie els?

*Ham.* That is *Laertes* a very noble youth, marke.

*Laer.* What Ceremonie els?

*Dost.* Her obsequies haue been as farre inlarg'd

As we haue warrantie, her death was doubtfull,

And but that great commaund ore-swayes the order,

She should in ground vn-sanctified been lodg'd

Till the last trumpet: for charitable prayers,

Flints and peebles should be throwne on her:

Yet heere she is allow'd her virgin Crants,

Her mayden strewments, and the bringing home

Of bell and buriall.

*Laer.* Must there no more be doone?

*Dost.* No more be doone.

We should prophane the seruice of the dead,

To sing a Requiem and such rest to her

As to peace-parted soules.

*Laer.* Lay her i'th earth,

And from her faire and vnpolluted flesh

May Violets spring: I tell thee churlish Priest,

A ministring Angel shall my sister be

When thou lyeest howling.

*Ham.* What, the faire *Ophelia*.

*Quee.* Sweets to the sweet, farewell,

I hop't thou should'st haue been my *Hamlets* wife,

I thought thy bride-bed to haue deckt sweet maide,

And not haue strew'd thy graue.

*Laer.* O treble woe

*Enter K. Q.  
Laertes and  
the corse.*

Fall:



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

Fall tenne times double on that cursed head,  
Whose wicked deede thy most ingenious sence  
Deprived thee of, hold off the earth a while,  
Till I have caught her once more in mine armes;  
Now pile your dust vpon the quicke and dead,  
Till of this flat a mountaine you haue made  
To'retop old *Pelion*, or the skyesh head  
Of blew *Olympus*.

*Ham.* What is he whose grieve  
Beares such an emphesis, whose phrase of sorrow  
Coniures the wandring starres, and makes them stand  
Like wonder wounded hearers: this is I  
*Hamlet* the Dane.

*Laer.* The deuill take thy soule.

*Ham.* Thou pray'st not well, I prethee take thy fingers  
For though I am not spleenatiue rash, (from my throat,  
Yet haue I in me something dangerous,  
Which let thy wisdome feare; hold off thy hand,

*King.* Pluck them a sunder.

*Quee.* *Hamlet, Hamlet.*

*All.* Gentlemen.

*Hora.* Good my Lord be quiet.

*Ham.* Why, I will fight with him vpon this theame  
Vntill my eye-lids will no longer wagge.

*Quee.* O my sonne, what theame?

*Ham.* I loued *Ophelia*, forty thousand brothers  
Could not with all theyr quantitie of loue  
Make vp my summe. What wilt thou doo for her.

*King.* O he is mad *Laertes*.

*Quee.* For loue of God forbear him.

*Ham.* S'wounds shew me what th'owt doe:

Woo't weepe, woo't fight, woo't fast, woo't teare thy selfe,

Woo't drinke vp *Esill*, eate a *Crocadile*?

He doo't, doost come heere to whine?

To out-face me with leaping in her graue,

Be buried quicke with her, and so will I.

And if thou prate of mountaines, let them throw

Millions of Acres on vs, till our ground

Sindging his pate against the burning Zone

Make

## Prince of Denmarke.

Make *Ossa* like a wart, nay and thou'lt mouthe,  
He rant as well as thou.

*Quee.* This is meere madnesse,  
And this a while the fit will worke on him,  
Anon as patient as the female Doue  
When that her golden cuplets are disclosed  
His silence will sit drooping.

*Ham.* Heare you sir,  
What is the reason that you vse me thus?  
I lou'd you euer, but it is no matter,  
Let *Hercules* himselfe doe what he may

The Cat will mew, and Dogge will haue his day. *Exit Hamlet*

*King.* I pray thee good *Horatio* waite vpon him. *and Horatio.*

Strengthen your patience in our last nights speech,

Weele put the matter to the present push:

Good *Gerward* set some watch ouer your sonne,

This graue shall haue a liuing monument,

An houre of quiet thereby shall we see

Tell then in patience our proceeding be. *Exeunt.*

*Enter Hamlet and Horatio.*

*Ham.* So much for this sir, now shall you see the other,  
You doe remember all the circumstance.

*Hora.* Remember it my Lord.

*Ham.* Sir in my hart there was a kind of fighting

That would not let me sleepe, my thought I lay

Worse then the mutines in the bilbo, rashly,

And pray'd be rashnes for it: let vs knowe,

Our indiscretion sometime serues vs well

When our deepe plors doe fall, & that should learne vs

Ther's a diuinity that shapes our ends,

Rough hew them how we will.

*Hora.* That is most certaine.

*Ham.* Vpfrom my Cabin,

My sea-gowne scarft about me in the darke

Gropt I to find out them, had my desire,

Fingard their packet, and in fine with-drew

To mine owne roome againe, making so bold

N.

My



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

My feares forgetting manners to vnfold  
Their graund commission; where I found *Horatio*  
A royall knauery, an exact command  
Larded with many feuerall sorts of reasons,  
Importing Denmarke's health, and *Englands* to;  
With hoe such bugges and goblins in my life,  
That on the superuise no leasure bated,  
No not to stay the grinding of the Axe,  
My head should be strooke off.

*Hor.* I't possible?

*Ham.* Heeres the commission, read it at more leasure,  
But wilt thou heare now how I did proceed.

*Hor.* I beseech you.

*Ham.* Being thus benetted round with villaines,  
Or I could make a prologue to my braines,  
They had begunne the play, I sat me downe,  
Deuild a new commission, wrote it faire,  
I once did hold it as our statists doe,  
A basenesse to write faire, and labourd much  
How to forget that learning, but sir now  
It did me yemans seruice, wilt thou know  
Th'effect of what I wrote?

*Hor.* I good my Lord.

*Ham.* An earnest coniuration from the King;  
As *England* was his faithfull tributary,  
As loue betweene them like the palme might flourish,  
As peace should still her wheaten garland weare  
And stand a Comma tweene their amities,  
And many such like, as sir of great charge,  
That on the view, and knowing of these contents,  
Without debatement further more or lesse,  
He should those bearers put to suddaine death,  
Not shriuing time allow'd.

*Hor.* How was this seald?

*Ham.* Why even in that was heauen ordaind,  
I had my fathers signet in my purse  
Which was the modill of that Danish seale,  
Folded the writ vp in the forme of th'other,  
Subscribe it, gau't th'impression, plac'd it safely,

## Prince of Denmarke.

The changling neuer knowne: now the next day  
Was our Sea fight, and what to this was sequent  
Thou knowest already.

*Hor.* So *Guyldensterne* and *Rosencrans* goe too't.

*Ham.* They are not neere my conscience, their defeat  
Dooes by their owne insinuation growe,  
Tis dangerous when the baser nature comes  
Betweene the passe and fell incenced points  
Of mighty opposits.

*Hor.* Why what a King is this!

*Ham.* Dooes it not thinke thee stand me now vppon?

He that hath kild my King, and whor'd my mother,  
Pop't in betweene th'election and my hopes,  
Throwne out his Angle for my proper life,  
And with such cufnage, i't not perfect conscience?

*Enter a Courtier.*

*Cour.* Your Lordship is right welcome backe to Denmarke.

*Ham.* I humble thanke you sir.

Doo'st know this water fly?

*Hor.* No my good Lord.

*Ham.* Thy state is the more gracious, for tis a vice to know him,  
He hath much land and fertill: let a beast be Lord of beasts, and his  
crib shall stand at the Kings messe, tis a chough, but as I say, spaci-  
ous in the possession of durt.

*Cour.* Sweete Lord, if your Lordshippe were at leasure, I should  
impart a thing to you from his Maiestie.

*Ham.* I will receaue it sir withall dilligence of spirit, your bonnet  
to his right vse, tis for the head.

*Cour.* I thanke your Lordship, it is very hot.

*Ham.* No belieue me, tis very cold, the wind is Northerly.

*Cour.* It is indifferant cold my Lord indeed.

*Ham.* But yet methinkes it is very fully and hot, or my complec-  
tion.

*Cour.* Exceedingly my Lord, it is very soultery, as t'were I can-  
not tell how: my Lord his Maiestie bad me signifie to you, that a  
has layed a great wager on your head, sir this is the matter.

*Ham.* I beseech you remember.

*Cour.* Nay good my Lord for my ease in good faith, sir here is newly  
com to Court *Laertes*, belieue me an absolute gentlemen, ful of most  
excellent



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

excellent differences, of very soft society, and great showing: in-  
deede to speake sellingly of him, hee is the card or kalender of gen-  
try: for you shall find in him the continent of what part a Gentle-  
man would see.

*Ham.* Sir, his definement suffers no perdition in you, though I  
know to deuide him inuentorially, would dazzie th'arithmaticke of  
memory, and yet but raw neither, in respect of his quick saile, but  
in the veritie of extolment, I take him to be a soule of great article,  
& his infusion of such dearch and rarenesse, as to make true diction  
of him, his semblable is his mirrour, & who els would trace him, his  
vmbage, nothing more.

*Cour.* Your Lordship speakes most infallibly of him.

*Ham.* The concernancy sir, why doe we wrap the gentleman in  
our more rawer breath?

*Cour.* Sir.

*Hora.* Ist not possible to vnderstand in another tongue, you will  
doo't sir really.

*Ham.* What imports the nomination of this gentleman.

*Cour.* Of *Laertes*.

*Hora.* His purse is empty already, all's golden words are spent.

*Ham.* Of him sir.

*Cour.* I know you are not ignorant.

*Ham.* I would you did sir, yet in faith if you did, it would not  
much approoue me, well sir.

*Cour.* You are not ignorant of what excellence *Laertes* is.

*Ham.* I dare not confesse that, least I should compare with  
him in excellence, but to know a man wel, were to knowe himselfe.

*Cour.* I meane sir for this weapon, but in the imputation laide on  
him, by them in his meed, hee's vnfollowed.

*Ham.* What's his weapon?

*Cour.* Rapier and Dagger.

*Ham.* That's two of his weapons, but well.

*Cour.* The King sir hath wagerd with him six Barbary horses,  
againgt the which hee has impaund as I take it six French Rapiers  
and Poynards, with their assignes, as girdle, hanger and so. Three  
of the carriages in faith, are very deare to fancy, very reponfue to  
the hilts, most delicate carriages, and of very liberall conceit.

*Ham.* What call you the carriages?

*Hora.* I knew you must be edified by the margent ere you had  
done.

## Prince of Denmarke.

done.

*Cour.* The carriage sir are the hangers.

*Ham.* The phraze would bee more Ierman to the matter if wee  
could carry a cannon by our sides, I would it be might hangers till  
then, but on, six Barbry horses against six French swords their as-  
signes, and three liberall conceited carriages, that's the French  
bet against the Danish, why is this all you call it?

*Cour.* The King sir, hath layd sir, that in a dozen passes betweene  
your selfe and him, hee shall not excede you three hits, hee hath  
layd on twelue for nine, and it would come to immediate triall, if  
your Lordshippe would vouchsafe the answer.

*Ham.* How if I answere no?

*Cour.* I meane my Lord the opposition of your person in triall.

*Ham.* Sir I will walke heere in the hall, if it please his Maiestie, it  
is the breathing time of day with me, let the foiles be brought, the  
Gentleman willing, and the King hold his purpose; I will winne  
for him and I can, if not, I will gaine nothing but my shame, and  
the odde hits.

*Cour.* Shall I deliuer you so?

*Ham.* To this effect sir, after what flourish your nature will.

*Cour.* I commend my duty to your Lordshippe.

*Ham.* Yours doo's well to commend it himselfe, there are no  
tongues els for's turne.

*Hora.* This Lapwing runnes away with the shell on his head.

*Ham.* A did so sir with his dugge before a suckt it, thus has he and  
many more of the same breede that I know the drossly age dotes on,  
only got the tune of the time, and out of an habit of incounter, a  
kind of histy collection, which carries them through and through  
the most prophane and trennowed opinions, and doe but blowe  
them to their triall, the bubbles are out.

*Enter a Lord.*

*Lord.* My Lord, his Maiestie commended him to you by young  
*Ostlicke*, who brings backe to him that you attend him in the hall,  
he sends to know if your pleasure hold to play with *Laertes*, or that  
you will take longer time?

*Ham.* I am constant to my purposes, they followe the Kings plea-  
sure, if his fitnes speakes, mine is ready: now or whensoever, pro-  
vided I be so able as now.



# The Tragedie of Hamlet

Lord. The King, and Queene, and all are comming downe.

Ham. In happy time.

Lord. The Queene desires you to vse some gentle entertainment to Laertes, before you fall to play.

Ham. Shee well instructs me.

Hora. You will loose my Lord.

Ham. I doe not thinke so, since he went into France, I haue bene in continuall practise, I shall winne at the ods; thou would'st not thinke how ill all's heere about my hart, but it is no matter.

Hora. Nay good my Lord.

Ham. It is but foolery, but it is such a kinde of gamgiuing, as would perhaps trouble a woman.

Hora. If your minde dislike any thing, obay it. I will forstal their repaire hether, and say you are not fit.

Ham. Not a whit, we defie augury, there is speciall providence in the fall of a Sparrowe, if it be, tis not to come, if it be not to come, it will be now, if it be not now, yet it well come, the readines is all, since no man of ought he leaues, knowes what ist to leaue betimes, let be.

*A table prepar'd, Trumpets, Drums and officers with Cushions,  
King, Queene, and all the state, Foiles, daggers,  
and Laertes.*

King. Come Hamlet, come and take this hand from me.

Ham. Giue me your pardon sir, I haue done you wrong, But pardon't as you are a gentleman, this presence knowes, And you must needs haue heard, how I am punnished With a fore distraction, what I haue done That might your nature, honor, and exception Roughly awake, I heare proclame was madnesse, Wast Hamlet wronged Laertes? neuer Hamlet. If Hamlet from himselfe be tane away, And when hee's not himselfe, dooes wrong Laertes, Then Hamlet dooes it not, Hamlet denies it, Who dooes it then? his madnesse. Ist be so, Hamlet is of the faction that is wronged, His madnesse is poore Hamlets enemie, Let my disclaiming from a purpos'd euill, Free me so farre in your most generous thoughts That I haue shot my arrowe ore the house

# Prince of Denmarke.

And hurt my brother.

Laer. I am satisfied in nature, Whose motiue in this case should stirre me most To my reuendge, but in my tearmes of honor I stand a loose, and will no reconcilment, Till by some elder Maisters of knowne honor I haue a voyce and president of peace To my name vngord: but all that time I doe receaue your offerd loue, like loue, And will not wrong it.

Ham. I embrace it freely, and will this brothers wager franckly play.

Giue vs the foiles.

Laer. Come, one for me.

Ham. Ile be your foile Laertes, in mine ignorance: Your skill shall like a starre i'th darcest night Strick fiery of indeed.

Laer. You mocke me sir.

Ham. No by this hand.

King. Giue them the foiles young Ostricke, cosin Hamlet, You knowe the wager.

Ham. Very well my Lord.

Your grace has layed the ods a'th wecker side.

King. I do not feare it, I haue seene you both, But since he is better, we haue therefore ods.

Laer. This is to heauy: let me see another.

Ham. This likes me well, these foiles haue all a length.

Ostr. I my good Lord.

King. Set me the stoopes of wine vpon that table,

If Hamlet giue the first or second hit,

Or quit in answere of the third exchange,

Let all the battlements their ordnance fire.

The King shall drinke to Hamlets better breath,

And in the cup an Onixe shall he throwe,

Richer then that which foure succesiue Kings

In Denmarks Crowne haue worne: giue me the cups,

And let the kettle to the trumpet speake,

The trumpet to the Cannoneere without,

The Cannons to the heauens, the heauen to earth,

Now



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

Now the King drinckes to Hamlet, come beginne. *Trumpets the while.*  
And you the Iudges beare a wary eye.

Ham. Come on fir.

Laer. Come my Lord.

Ham. One.

Laer. No.

Ham. Iudgement.

Ostrick. A hit, a very palpable hit. *Drum, trumpets and shot.*

Laer. Well, againe. *Flourish, a peece goes off.*

King. Stay, giue me drinke, Hamlet this pearle is thine.

Heeres to thy health : giue him the cup.

Ham. Ile play this bout first, set it by a while

Come, another hit. What say you ?

Laer. I doe confest.

King. Our sonne shall winne.

Quee. Hee's fat and scant of breath.

Heere Hamlet take my napkin rub thy browes,

The Queene carowles to thy fortune Hamlet.

Ham. Good Madam.

King. Gertraud doe not drinke.

Quee. I will my Lord, I pray you pardon me.

King. It is the poyfined cup, it is too late.

Ham. I dare not drinke yet Madam, by and by.

Quee. Come, let me wipe thy face.

Laer. My Lord, Ile hit him now.

King. I doe not think'r.

Laer. And yet it is almost against my conscience.

Ham. Come for the third Laertes, you doe but dally.

I pray you passe with your best violence

I am sure you make a wanton of me.

Laer. Say you so, come on.

Ostr. Nothing neither way.

Laer. Haue at you now.

King. Part them, they are incens'd.

Ham. Nay come againe.

Ostr. Looke to the Queene there howe.

Hora. They bleed on both sides, how is it my Lord ?

Ostr. How ist Laertes ?

Laer. Why as a woodcock to mine owne sprindge Ostrick,

## Prince of Denmarke.

I am iustly kild with mine owne treachery.

Ham. How dooes the Queene ?

King. Shee sounds to see them bleed.

Quee. No, no, the drinke, the drinke, ô my deare Hamlet,  
The drinke the drinke, I am poyfined.

Ham. O villanie, how let the doore be lock't,  
Treachery, seeke it out.

Laer. It is heere Hamlet, thou art slaine,  
No medcin in the world can doe thee good,

In thee there is not halfe an houres life,

The treacherous instrument is in my hand

Vnbated and enuenom'd, the foule practise

Hath turn'd it selfe on me, loe heere I lie

Neuer to rise againe, thy mother's poyfined,

I can no more, the King, the Kings too blame.

Ham. The point inuenom'd to, then venome to thy worke.

All. Treason, treason.

King. O yet defend me friends, I am but hurt.

Ham. Heare thou incestious damned Dane,  
Drinke of this potion, is the Onixe heere ?

Follow my mother.

Laer. He is iustly serued, it is a poyson temperd by himselfe,

Exchange forgiuenesse with me noble Hamlet,

Mine and my fathers death come not vppon thee,

Nor thine on me.

Ham. Heauen make thee free of it, I follow thee ;

I am dead Horatio, wretched Queene adiew.

You that looke pale, and tremble at this chance,

That are but mutes, or audience to this act,

Had I but time, as this fell sergeant Death

Is strict in his arrest, ô I could tell you,

But let it be ; Horatio I am dead,

Thou liuest, report me and my cause a right

To the vnstified.

Hora. Neuer belieue it ;

I am more an anticke Romaine then a Dane,

Heere's yet some liquer left.

Ham. As th'art a man

Giue me the cup, let goe, by heauen Ile hate,

O.

O.



## The Tragedie of Hamlet

O god *Horatio*, what a wounded name  
Things standing thus vnknowne, shall I leaue behind me?  
If thou did'st euer hold me in thy hart,  
Absent thee from felicity a while,  
And in this harsh world drawe thy breath in paine  
To tell my story : what warlike noise is this?

*A march a  
farre off.*

*Enter Osrick.*

*Os.* Young *Fortenbrasse* with conquest come from Poland,  
To th'embassadors of *England* giues this warlike volly.

*Ham.* O I die *Horatio*,

The potent poyson quite ore-crowes my spirit,  
I cannot liue to heare the newes from *England*,  
But I doe prophetic th'ellection lights  
On *Fortinbrasse*, he has my dying voyce,  
So tell him, with th'occurrants more and lesse  
Which haue solicited, the rest is silence.

*Hora.* Now cracks a noble hart, good night sweete Prince,  
And flights of Angels sing thee to thy rest.  
Why dooes the drum come hether?

*Enter Fortenbrasse, with the Embassadors.*

*For.* Where is this sight?

*Hora.* What is it you would see?

Ifought of woe, or wonder, cease your search.

*For.* This quarry cries on hauock, o prou'd death  
What feast is toward in thine eternall cell,  
That thou so many Princes at a shot  
So bloudily hast strook?

*Embas.* The sight is dismall

And our affaires from *England* come too late,

The eares are sencelesse that should giue vs hearing,

To tell him his commandment is fulfilled,

That *Roscraus* and *Guyldensterne* are dead,

Where should we haue our thanks?

*Hora.* Not from his mouth

Had it th'ability of life to thanke you;

He neuer gaue commandment for their death;

But since to iump vpon this bloody question

You

*last leaf written*



